

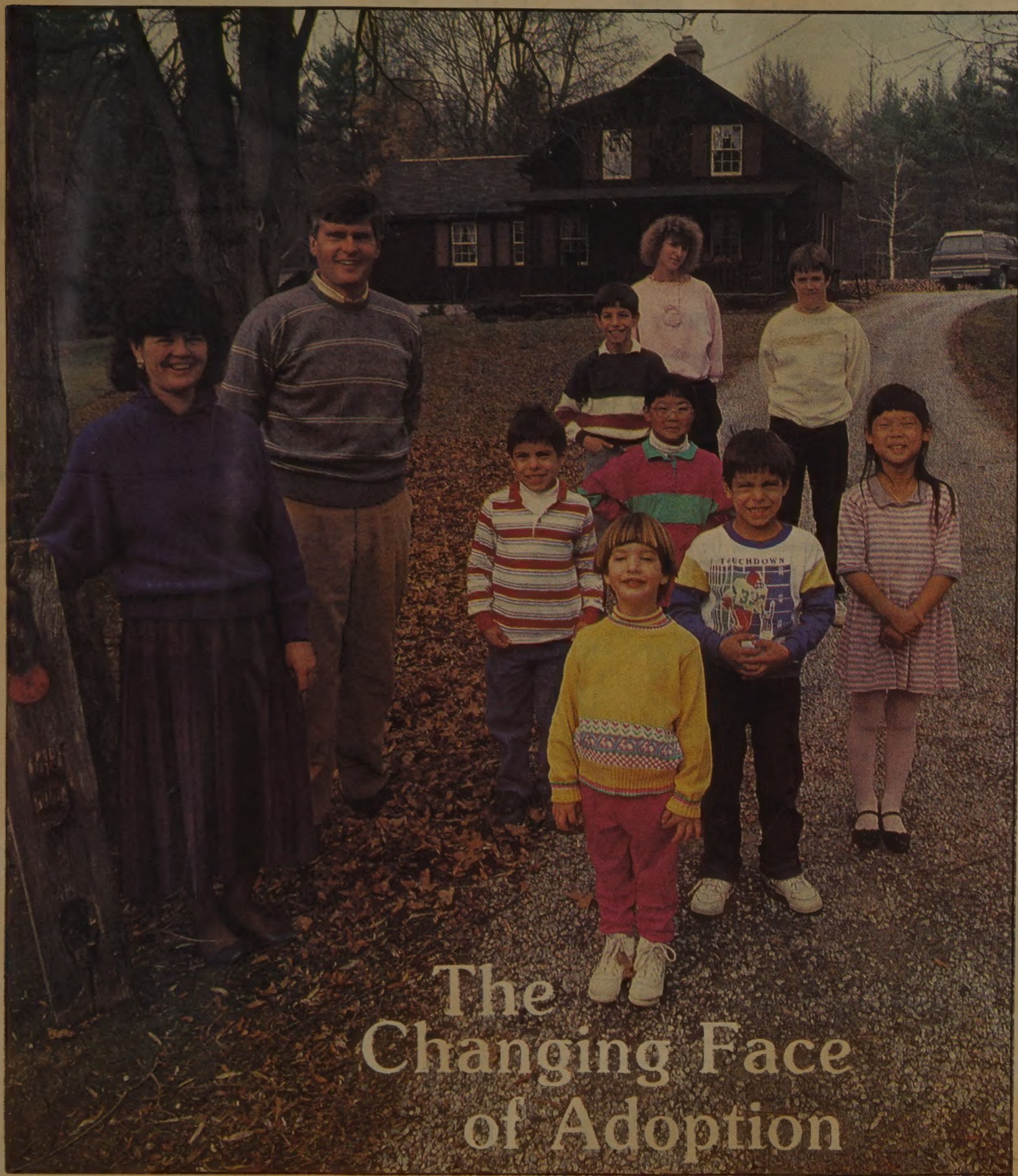
Scrapbook

For 1
Cover: The Aldrich family of Lee. (Left) Cathleen and Richard Aldrich. (Foreground) Amy. (Second row) Miguel, Nicolas, Susan, Allison. (Rear) Jeffrey, Peter, Andrea. Photo by Joel Librizzi. Design by David LeClair.

Berkshires Week

November 22, 1987

THE BERKSHIRE EAGLE MAGAZINE



The
Changing Face
of Adoption

Professor hired to study whether Lee should have chief executive

By William J. Carey

LEE — The Selectmen signed a \$7,000 contract this week with University of Massachusetts professor David A. Booth, who will study the feasibility of establishing a full-time chief executive position in Lee.

Booth, a political science professor and Pelham resident, has advised several Massachusetts towns on government and bylaw reform. He is a consultant to the Berkshire County Charter Commission, which meets in Pittsfield.

The study is being funded through a grant from the state's Executive Office of Communities and Development. The purpose, according to Booth's contract, "shall be to explore the possibility, advantages and disadvantages, of establishing

an appointed chief executive for the town of Lee."

In past meetings, part-time officials have supported the hiring of a chief executive to manage the town's \$7 million budget and oversee daily operations. The executive would answer to the three selectmen.

A volunteer committee previously formed to investigate the matter had called for hiring an executive secretary and said the state study was unnecessary. But the Selectmen overruled the committee and pushed for the study.

As part of his contract, Booth will furnish a preliminary report containing a socioeconomic profile of the town and sections on its recent political history, operations, budget-

making and personnel management. Other topics will be the duties of a chief executive, the experiences of other communities, and the changes in government that would necessarily take place.

Has 120 days

Booth will deliver a final report within 120 days of the contract signing, which took place Monday.

Once the study is completed, the Selectmen will make a decision on the chief executive position based on Booth's recommendations. If they vote to appoint one, Booth has agreed to draft the necessary legislation, update and revise the town bylaws, prepare a job description and analyze the cost. The establishment of such a position would require town meeting approval.

Page. Fri. Dec. 4, 1987

Planners set conditions for Consolati Heights

LEE — The Planning Board on Monday approved definitive plans for Consolati Heights, a 19-lot subdivision on Fairview Street.

The board approved the project with two major conditions, that utilities be completed before building permits are issued, and that monitoring wells be installed to test ground water.

The second condition was recommended by the state Department of Environmental Quality Engineering due to the presence of an old demolition dump in the area. There was some question as to the need for monitoring wells since the individual lots will be connected to the town's water supply. The developer, Frank P. Consolati, was unhappy with the condition, saying the dump does not pose a threat.

Consolati was accompanied by

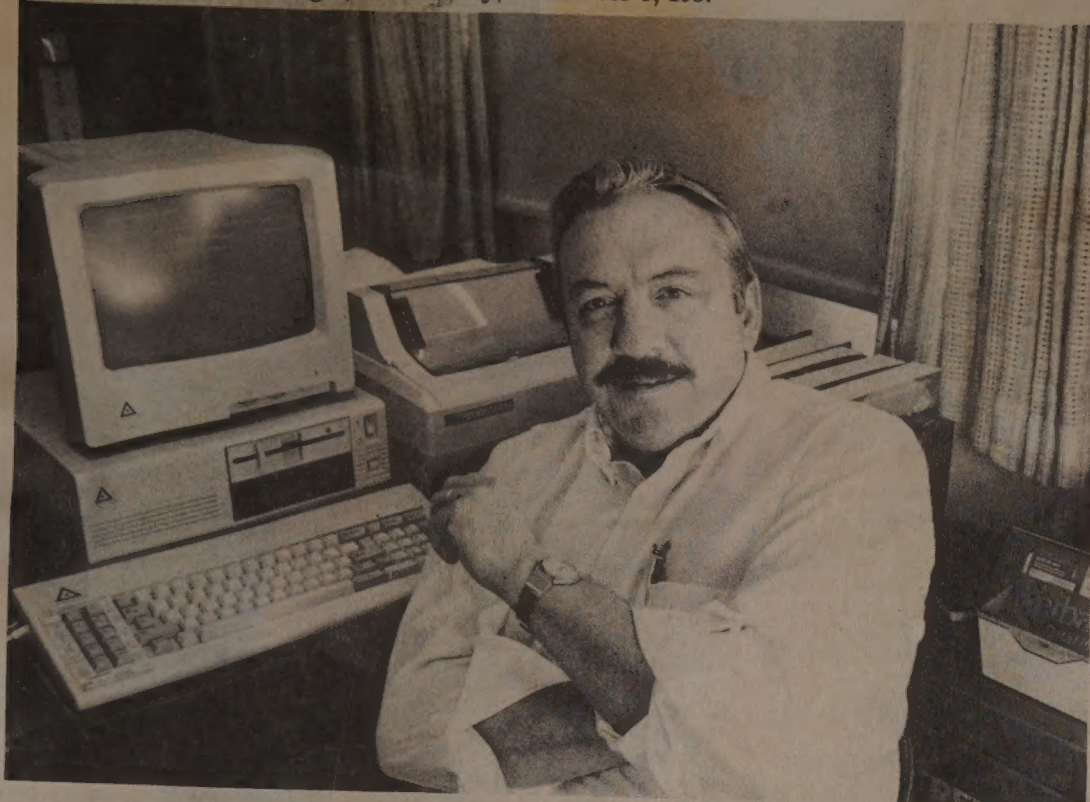
John F. Cysz of Foresight Land Services. About 20 people packed into the Planning Board office to witness the meeting. Asked if anyone wished to speak for or against the subdivision, one observer said, "I'd like to build my house as soon as possible." There were no other comments.

Voting in favor of the project were Chairman Sallie Kate Kish, Robert W. Birch, Joseph F. DuPont and Jill Bickford Groff. All said their approval was conditional on the drilling of monitoring wells.

"It's going to be expensive," noted Kish. "I certainly can appreciate the developer's concern about this."

The subdivision, which covers about 10 acres, will be located on the west side of Fairview Street.

Page, Wed Dec. 9, 1987



Steve Moore

COMPUTER MAPS of local geographic features may soon assist land-use planning, says Warren E. Archey of the Pittsfield Cooperative Extension Service office. Archey is statewide coordinator of the mapping project. He and UMass researchers are compiling data for the production of charts and information to meet specific local planning needs.

Board backs feasibility study of Route 102 industrial park

LEE — The Selectmen have tentatively approved doing a study of the feasibility of developing land on Route 102 for a light industrial park.

The board agreed Monday to approve the study pending the outcome of a public hearing scheduled for Jan. 4 at 7:30. Both steps — the board's approval and the public hearing — are required to apply for a \$30,000 state grant that will pay for the study.

The park is being proposed by the Community Development Corp. on a 50-acre parcel north of Route 102 and east of Highfield Drive. There are several private landowners involved, and any development hinges on the sale of their land. Also, a town meeting vote is required to rezone the parcel for light industrial uses.

Although the fringe of Route 102 is zoned industrial, the land behind it is zoned residential and residential-agricultural.

Meeting with the Selectmen this week were CDC Chairman Richard E. Sitzer and Karl A. Hekler, executive director of the Berkshire County Regional Planning Commission. The BCRPC is preparing the grant application for the feasibility study.

Hekler said the study will cover marketing, engineering, environmental and financial aspects of developing the park. He said \$30,000 is the maximum grant amount awarded by the state.

In other business, the Selectmen received a copy of a stern letter sent by Public Works Superintendent J. Peter Scolforo to the Berkshire Gas Co. of Pittsfield.

In the letter, Scolforo said the Department of Public Works board will deny future construction of gas mains unless the company guarantees proper installation. He said a recent job on Prospect Street by Dodge Construction of Pittsfield, a subcontractor, "was one of the

worst the board has seen."

Scolforo said the DPW received "constant complaints" of ditches left open, fill on the road, poor safety lights and other problems. At another job on Marble Street, part of the sidewalk was excavated and left exposed for two weeks until the DPW itself complained.

The Selectmen scheduled a Dec. 21 meeting with the gas company.

Also, Selectman Diane P. Roosa announced that Architects Inc. of Northampton has been selected from nine candidates to perform a feasibility study of renovating the Civil War Memorial Town Hall. Roosa, a member of the Memorial Hall Study Committee, said the price will not exceed the \$9,000 appropriated by town meeting representatives.

Another purpose of the study will be to determine the feasibility of consolidating emergency services at a new building next to the Central Fire Station on Main Street.

Also, the Selectmen have established the following deadlines for submitting materials to the May 12 annual town meeting: budgets, Jan. 15; reports, Feb. 1; and warrant articles, Feb. 22. The warrant will be posted on May 2.

Mt. Everett alumni tea

SHEFFIELD — A Mount Everett Regional School alumni tea party will be held Dec. 23 for graduates of Mount Everett and the class of 1988. Food and refreshments will be served in the school library from 7 to 9.

The party has been prepared by Liz Shuts, Michelle Sheinhart, Sue Green, Darlene Barrier, Joann Hankey, Russell Hopkins and Jeff Turner.

October Mtn. developers counter sue condo owners

By William J. Carey

LEE — The developers of The Village at October Mountain have responded to a lawsuit by condominium owners with a suit of their own.

In a response and counter-suit filed Dec. 2 in Berkshire Superior Court, the condominium owners are charged with separate counts of making defamatory statements, invasion of privacy, interference with contractual relations and violation of trademark rights. The suit was

prepared by Pittsfield attorneys Andrew M. Hochberg and Gerald A. Denmark on behalf of the developers.

The Village at October Mountain is a 104-unit condominium village being developed off East Street by Philip M. Manger and Robert H. Garrity. Since breaking ground in late 1984, it has been a source of ongoing controversy.

In October, the owners of 29 condominium units filed suit to wrest control of the village's board of managers from Manger and Garrity. The board is responsible for common expenses and upkeep of the village.

According to village bylaws, control of the board will shift to condominium owners when 75 percent of the units in each of six units are sold. While most of the units in the first five phases have been sold, the sixth phase of four buildings and 16 units is not completed. Two of the buildings, each containing four units, are being held up by the town's refusal to grant occupancy permits.

In their suit, the owners charged that Manger and Garrity "failed to take necessary steps" to bring the two buildings into conformity with town requirements. In their capacity as the board of managers, the developers also failed to make records available and to establish working capital and reserve funds as provided for in village bylaws, the owners said.

The owners' group further accused the developers of failing to conform with building codes in constructing the condominiums and acting "negligently" in the design and construction of drainage facilities.

"We deny everything they have alleged," Denmark said yesterday. "Their claims are false and they

know they're false."

The counter-claim charges the condominium owners with making defamatory statements in communications to the Lee Selectmen and others alleging that Manger and Garrity willfully created unsafe conditions, withheld records, conducted illegal meetings and mismanaged financial affairs.

As a result, the owners "are reasonably likely to expose the (developers) to contempt and to place them in disrepute in the community," the suit states. By their actions, it said, the owners invaded the privacy of the developers. When they asked the Selectmen to withhold occupancy permits, they interfered with the developers' contractual agreements to sell condominiums, the suit states.

Use of trademark

A final charge holds that a trademark drawing of October Mountain was used without permission on letters sent out by the owners' committee.

The use of the trademark, the suit states, "is likely to cause confusion and economic harm to the (developers) in that certain statements and allegations made by the October Mountain Condo Owners' Committee which imply mismanagement, unworkmanlike construction practices, and illegal activities are attributable to the defendant, October Mountain Development Corp."

Two officers of the owners' committee, Charles Stein and Richard Hirschmann, are specifically charged with defamatory statements, invasion of privacy and improper use of the trademark.

The owners' attorney, Edward M. Reilly of Pittsfield, could not be reached for comment yesterday.

Lee has tentative plans to repair school roof

LEE — A special town meeting has been tentatively scheduled next month to appropriate money to repair the Central School roof.

James D. Gralla, buildings and grounds superintendent, and Stephen D. Barry, project architect, told the school and building committees Monday that four Pittsfield contractors have been invited to bid by Dec. 21. They are: George E. Emerson Inc., Joseph Francese Inc., Renau Construction Co. and David J. Tierney Inc.

Gralla outlined a tentative

schedule that would have the School Committee meet Dec. 29 to choose a contractor. The board would then petition the Selectmen for a special town meeting Jan. 7, the earliest possible date.

The school gymnasium was ordered closed in September after two custodians discovered damage to the roof decking. Briggs Engineering of Rockland recommended that both the gymnasium and center wing roofs be replaced, with the gymnasium needing more extensive, decking repairs. Briggs es-

timated the cost as \$103,000.

The School Committee has declared the situation an emergency in order to qualify for state building assistance. If Lee wins approval, the town will be reimbursed for 65 percent of the cost over five years.

In the meantime, the town will have to appropriate the necessary funds. And with Jan. 7 being the earliest possible date for a town meeting, the project will not start during the two-week Christmas vacation as school officials had hoped.

Barry, who is being paid \$8,500 to

see the project to completion, said his firm decided the best course would be to hire a general contractor who would delegate roofing, steel and other jobs to subcontractors.

Asked when the job would begin, he said, "Obviously, they'll want to start as soon as possible because their necks will be out this far when they leave things open."

Gralla said four classrooms on the third floor of the school will be vacated during work on the center wing.

Keeping small-town identity a priority for Lee residents

By William J. Carey

LEE — Asked to set their priorities for the community, Lee residents gave high marks to open space, single-family homes and retail stores. They gave low marks to second homes, trailer parks and multifamily dwellings.

The results, based on a questionnaire mailed to all residents this fall, provide a valuable piece of information for the town's strategic planning task force, which is developing new strategies for housing and zoning. The task force is carrying out the project through a \$45,000 state grant it received last year in partnership with Egremont.

Glenn A. Russo of the Berkshire County Regional Planning Commission said 567, or about 22 percent, of the questionnaires mailed to Lee residents were filled out and returned. The BCRPC is acting as a primary consultant for the planning project.

Russo said the response rate is good, although younger generations were not well represented because of apathy or other reasons.

The questionnaire itself was designed by Thomas Planning Services Inc. of Boston and revised by task force members. The results were tabulated and analyzed by Profit Partners in Marketing of Pittsfield.

Opinions cohesive

What Profit found is that Lee residents have a "very cohesive opinion on most issues." Even when broken down into subgroups of age, district and length of residence, it said, the outlook was largely unwavering.

Specifically, respondents named parks and open space, orchards and agriculture, single-family homes and retail stores as their four favorite land uses. The least favorite, in order, were nightclubs and bars, second homes, trailer parks and multifamily dwellings such as condominiums and town houses.

In other sections, respondents said they saw positive points in Lee's small-town atmosphere, rural

backdrops, schools and proximity to the Massachusetts Turnpike. They responded in negative fashion to traffic and condominiums, and were critical of town government and zoning controls.

Concerning government, respondents typically said they dislike the Selectmen, fighting between departments and conflicts of interest. They also indicated the need for a professional town manager. Zoning restrictions, they said, are too lax.

Asked if they favor a bypass of Main Street to Route 20, 53 percent were in favor and 43 percent opposed. However, there was no clear response as to what side of town would be preferable for a bypass.

Sixty percent of the respondents said they favored existing lot sizes and frontage requirements, while 27 percent said they would like to see larger lots with more frontage.

Regarding business topics, respondents showed a "strong preference" for the development of an industrial park, presumably in an existing industrial area, Profit said. However, while a slight majority favored tax abatements to encourage business, the option of increasing municipal services was not favored, it said.

"In general," Profit concluded, "the residents of the town of Lee wish to protect and preserve its traditional New England small-town character. The main elements of this character were identified as neighborhoods and traditional, single-family homes, a central shopping district which serves most of their daily needs, a strong town government to provide services and protect their interests, and most clearly, open space."

In the eyes of the respondents, it said, that character is being threatened by second homes, condominiums and competition for new industry and jobs.

'No great surprises'

While she found "no great surprises" in the questionnaire results, Sallie Kate Kish, chairman of the town's task force, noted that con-

traditions do exist. Of interest, she said, is the popularity of open space on the one hand, and business expansion on the other.

At any rate, Kish said the survey will come in handy when the task force holds a public meeting to present its findings. The meeting has been scheduled for Jan. 7 at 7 p.m. at Lee High School.

In Memory Of	
Emily, Harriet, Edna	\$25.00
Nono, Nona, Mary, Harry from Stan and Teresa	10.00
Thomas D. Finn	50.00
Our Gampy, Thomas D. Finn from Geof, Jyl and Josh Deering and Scott and Stacy Merwin	50.00
My Husband, John Madden from his wife Mary	10.00
Walt Snyder from his grandchildren	5.00
William Carty	10.00
Billy Seff	10.00
Joey Nigrelli, Patrick Nigrelli, Jim Bergin and Joe Monterosso from Chris Castegnaro	10.00
My friend Kelly Shelton from Sue Castegnaro	5.00
William F. Carty	30.00
Jack Kennedy from Ellen and Tari	5.00
Andy Bangs from Nana and Pa	5.00
Our loving Nana from Mikie and Emily	5.00
Our loving Nanny from Mikie and Emily	5.00
My Dad, Francis J. Tyer Sr., love from daughter Katie	5.00
My grandmother Catherine Mahoney love granddaughter Katie	5.00
Grandama Jean, Nono and Uncle Coe, love David, Mickey and Jeffrey	20.00
Beatrice and Kevin Cahalan	\$ 20.00
Our moms, Grace Buck and Laura Soules, love Harold and Barbara	15.00
Joan Smachetti, a friend	10.00
Aldo Consolati	5.00
Catherine Toole	10.00
Joe Ford Sr. from his wife, Gert Ford	5.00
Chet Bevins, Moe and Geo Fogarty, from Gert Ford	10.00
Don Williams from Pat, Susan and Larry	25.00
Grandma Andrews, Grandpa Sparks from Dick, Debbie and Jeff	10.00
Thomas Sullivan, Moe, Fitz, Dick C., Dick S., T.K., and Bob	12.00
Of our loved ones	5.00
Nonny and Grandad	5.00
Nina and Gramp	5.00
Loving memories of our dad and grandad Lawrence Toole and Fred Ruccio from Jacob and Gabriel, Brianne and Doug	20.00
Michael E. Moore from Mom and Dad	5.00
Bob O'Brien, love Peg	10.00
Our beloved and faithful animals	5.00

Eagle, Sat. Dec. 19, 1987 Cause of Lee fire still a mystery

By William J. Carey

LEE — The cause of the Nov. 22 fire that destroyed Noni's Pizza on Railroad Street is officially "undetermined." Meanwhile, the owner of the building has vowed to rebuild.

According to a spokesman for the district attorney's office, state fire investigator F. Christopher Holmes completed his investigation of the blaze without being able to determine its source. Holmes is a member of the Crime Prevention and Control unit, which is assigned to the district attorney's office.

The spokesman, Frederick A. Lantz, said fires are difficult to trace when there is extensive damage to a building. Noni's, a one-story wooden building, was leveled by the smoky, early-morning blaze.

The building was owned by Marcia Slaminsky and her mother, Ruth, of Stockbridge Road. It was rented for the past two years to Kevin and Anne Roosa of East

Street, who operated the pizza business.

Marcia Slaminsky said the rubble from the fire is being trucked to Chicopee and should be removed by this week. She declined to specify the amount of the damage or whether the building was insured.

"I'd like to thank everyone for their concern," she said. "My mother and I will rebuild so that Kevin and Anne will be back in business making pizzas."

Asked if she had any theories on the fire, Anne Roosa said, "From the pictures, it looks like it started upstairs in the attic. We figured it must have been something electrical."

Another blaze, one that damaged the former South Lee School on Aug. 26, is still being investigated, Lantz said. Shortly after the fire, Holmes said the blaze originated in a couch that was stored in one of three former classrooms. He said it was of a "suspicious nature," although he had not determined whether it was set accidentally or intentionally.

The building, owned by Willis and Marilyn Fennelly of Otis, was unoccupied at the time.

Lee students qualify for Mass. ensembles

LEE — Six students in the music program at Lee Central School have been accepted on the basis of auditions to the Massachusetts Music Educators Association Junior Western District Ensembles.

They are band members Stacey Sagendorph, first clarinet; Rena Parker, first trombone; April Slater, second trumpet; Heather Stanard, third trumpet; and Rich Wescott, snare drum; and orchestra member Traci Stanard, timpani.

A festival will take place in March of 1988.



William Carey

DISTRIBUTING bag of toys at Lee Town Hall Saturday is Lee Police Officer Joseph Buffis, right. Recipient is Peter Ryan and daughter, Natasha, 2. The toys were purchased through the Eddie LaLiberte Toy Fund, founded by Lee police in 1958 to provide Christmas toys for Lee children.

Lee Toy Fund gains \$1,422 toward goal

LEE — The Eddie LaLiberte Toy Fund last week picked up \$1,422 toward its 1987 funding goal of \$3,000. The fund is within \$435 of its goal.

Toys were distributed Saturday, but donations will be accepted until Jan. 1. They may be given to any Lee police officer, dropped off at the town switchboard on Main Street, or mailed to P.O. Box 278, Lee, 01238.

Loving parents and grandparents, Dorothy and Bertie Nettleton from Dixie, Doug, Sharon and Steven		20.00
George H. Bagnaschi Jr.		25.00
George H. Bagnaschi Jr.		25.00
All my loved ones, Dan Mahoney		10.00
Wife, Martha A. Sykes from Kenneth R. Sykes Sr. on behalf of the many children who did benefit from her generosity and caring in the past		500.00
George H. Bagnaschi Jr.		15.00
Mary Passetto from her son and daughter-in-law		5.00
John Tyler and great-granddaughter Jennifer Dowd from Louise Tyler		5.00
The Ashley and Pollard loved ones		10.00
Clifford McCauley Sr. and Diane McCauley Tower, the McCauleys		10.00
Grandma Buck from Debbie and Eddie		5.00
Billy Seff		10.00
Nelson Tacy		15.00
Heamon Williams "Poppy" from Dave, Cindy, Matthew and Brian		2.50
Ed Stanton "Big Ed" from Dave, Cindy, Matthew and Brian		2.50
Donald Williams, "Uncle Donnie," from Dave, Cindy, Matthew and Brian		2.50
Wallace Noel "George," from Dave, Cindy, Matthew and Brian		2.50
Louis and Mildred Airoldi and Jan and Helen Airoldi from Susan A. Kallock		30.00
John Boomsma from Mom and Ray		5.00
Marco and Diana Buffoni from Ray and Martha		5.00
Robert "Butch" Bragdon from Tricia, Rodney and Teresa		30.00
Jim Bianco and his grandson, Robert Bianco		10.00
All our loved ones, Eleanor and Bill Powers		10.00
Today's total		\$1,422.00
Needed		\$ 435.00

Merry Christmas from Anonymous		\$ 10.00
The Zukowski Family		20.00
Tim, Mary and Danny		5.00
Jay Kendrick		10.00
Anonymous		10.00

In Lieu of Cards	
Tenants of Brown Memorial Court	\$25.00
From Applewynd Acres	
Deer Camp	53.00
Leon and Sonny Biasin	10.00
Chris, Sharon, Jonathan and Patrick Terry	10.00
George and Mary Lane	10.00
Merry Christmas from Mr. and Mrs. Crosby B. Perry	10.00
Al and Mary Turner	\$ 10.00
Sons of Italy Lodge 1620	25.00
Harold, Barb and Lori Soules	10.00
Gert Ford	5.00
Doni and Laurie DeLugan	10.00
Joe and Olga Barbini	10.00
To all my friends and relatives, Louise Tyler	5.00
Rita P. Thrane of Lenox	15.00
Dorothy E. Cooney	5.00
Hyde Place Association	15.00
Dan Mahoney	5.00
Lee Fire Co.	25.00
Gene and Barb Pasini	10.00
Mae Turner	10.00
Donna and Louie DiGrigoli	20.00
Bob and Maureen Well-speak	25.00
John Jones and Lee Tex-aco	25.00
Lee Volunteer Ambulance Squad	25.00
United Papermakers and Paperworkers, Foresters Local 1499	150.00
Charlene and Link	10.00
To our friends in Lee from Bill and Dot Salinetti in Orlando, Fla.	10.00
Audie, Joe and Tobey Furgal	10.00

The Berkshire Eagle, Tuesday, December 22, 1987 — B7

Lee board asked to explain why Briggs was fired

By William J. Carey

LEE — The state Board of Building Regulations and Standards has asked the Selectmen for an explanation of their Nov. 16 decision to fire Building Inspector Edward M. Briggs.

In a Dec. 9 letter, Charles J. Dinezio, chief of inspections, said the board's action to dismiss Briggs for issuing an occupancy permit at The Village at October Mountain "could develop into a liability for the town of Lee." He requests an explanation "in order to determine what further action may be taken."

Briggs, an 18-year veteran inspector, was fired for issuing an occupancy permit for one of the four condominium units in Building 20 at the village. The Selectmen had asked him not to, contending that a 1986 construction ban applies to that building and others. The ban was imposed to enforce town building conditions.

Hearing continued

After the firing, the condominium developers took legal action against the Selectmen and Briggs's replacement, Robert W. Lester. The object of their suit, filed Dec. 10 in Berkshire Superior Court, is to compel Lester to resume inspecting buildings and, if warranted, to issue the necessary permits. A hearing scheduled for yesterday morning was continued to Monday.

Last night, the Selectmen held a 40-minute closed meeting to discuss the suit with Lester, Plumbing Inspector James Airoldi, Wiring Inspector Garfield Canon, Fire Chief Lazzaro Buffis, Town Counsel Jerome Scully, the Conservation Commission and Tighe & Bond, consulting engineers.

The board would not discuss the meeting, citing pending litigation. However, Selectmen Chairman William D. Bean said later that a joint inspection of the village for drainage and other areas has been scheduled for Saturday at 1 p.m.

Lester and regional state inspector Francis P. DiBaro toured the development Dec. 15. But in discussions last night, it was unclear which party called in the state inspector. Lester said he had discussed October Mountain before with DiBaro, who agreed to visit there at an unspecified time. Philip M. Manger, one of the developers, said it was he who asked for the inspection and followed it up with a written request.

"I want to put this thing to bed," Manger said last night.

Lester has declined to comment on what DiBaro found because of the pending litigation.

Manger said the state inspector "was happy with what he saw. He had no criticism."

In his letter, Dinezio points out that under state law, the local building inspector is responsible for administering and enforcing the state building code.

'Without authority'

"This responsibility rests solely with the building inspector and cannot be usurped by actions of the appointing authority, selectmen, town manager or any other chief administrative officer," he wrote. "In your attempt to influence the issuance of certificates of use and occupancy, it appears that you were attempting to enforce the state building code, an action you are without authority to undertake, and which is contrary to the provisions of law."

Bean said last night that his board had not seen the letter. A copy went to Briggs, who showed it to The Eagle.

Berkshire Eagle, Dec. 24, 1987

School board raps supt. on leadership, visibility

By William J. Carey

LEE — School Committee members said Tuesday they would like to see more leadership from Superintendent of Schools Clarence C. Truesdell.

Truesdell, who took over as superintendent of Lee, Otis and Tyringham schools in 1985, was in the hot seat for nearly two hours as the Lee committee held its annual review of his job performance. The board generally praised his intelligence and congeniality but found fault with his leadership and public visibility.

"Unfortunately, as far as leadership is concerned, I personally want someone who acts, not reacts," said member Margaret M. Biron, one of the strongest critics. "I want the captain on the bridge."

Contract to expire

The review is significant because Truesdell's three-year contract expires in August. On Jan. 7, three

members of the Lee committee — Biron, Chairman Judith L. Olds and Edward M. Lahey — will meet with their counterparts in Otis and Tyringham to decide if that contract should be renewed. The superintendent earns a yearly salary of \$50,880, with \$35,107 paid by Lee, \$10,684 by Otis and \$5,088 by Tyringham.

Committee members evaluated Truesdell in the following areas: leadership and management abilities, school and public visibility, communications, professional growth and knowledge of the budget, curriculum, contracts and general laws.

Although comments varied in each category, members generally called for a more aggressive, visible approach.

Carol E. LePrevost said that Truesdell has a good relationship with the principals but that "I always get the feeling he's carrying back what they feel." She advised

him to take on more of a leadership role by putting forward "what your final judgment is."

Joseph C. Savery said he has been "taken aback" at times by what he perceived as a "lack of leadership or maybe a lack of interpersonal skills."

"I prefer to hear a recommendation come from the chief executive officer, which is the superintendent of schools," he said. Later, he added, "I've got to have a fighter up there. I've got to have someone who will tell me to go to hell as quick as I'll tell him to go to hell."

In the area of communications, members said the superintendent is not well-known and should participate more in community functions.

"Someone said: 'Who's the superintendent? I don't know him,'" recalled Biron. "I feel that's a real problem after three years."

Of the curriculum, LePrevost said, "The educational development I've seen come into the meetings — I've seen come in from the teaching level." Other than changes in the kindergarten and the hiring of a librarian, she said, "I haven't seen any new educational programs. . . . I've seen old ones updated."

Biron, Savery and Patricia D. Carlino all indicated they are pleased with the curriculum but unsure of Truesdell's contributions.

'Queasy feeling'

Biron said, "I've sat here many nights and Mrs. Olds has said, 'Is there a superintendent's report?' And you said no." That leaves me with a queasy feeling in the area of curriculum development."

Members said Truesdell is becoming more involved in budget preparations but does not always have ready answers to their questions.

In the area of professional growth, the superintendent received high marks.

"I think you're a very intelligent man who has a lot of potential for this system," said Lahey. "In this regard, I think we're blessed to have a man like you in this position."

Savery observed: "I think he had a lot of professional growth here tonight. I think the committee had a lot of constructive criticism."

Truesdell said yesterday that some of the members appeared to be equating aggressiveness with leadership. He said he favors "participatory management" and has "great respect" for teachers and administrators.

"I'm not an aggressive person," he said. "And I'm not saying that apologetically. For me, it's more like being the director of an orchestra. You have to expect people to do things that you can't."

Of Tuesday's review, he said, "I took it as being relatively positive. It was fair enough."

Berkshire Eagle, Mon. Dec. 28, 1987

Petition launched in favor of Lee's curb on building

By William J. Carey

LEE — The town's building moratorium has spawned yet another petition, this one in favor.

Town meeting representatives John T. Kelly of 43 Laurel St. and Charlotte P. Davis of 9 Navin Ave. have launched a petition asking the Selectmen to continue "for at least one year" the moratorium on all developments producing more than 2,000 gallons of sewage a day. The Selectmen imposed the moratorium on Nov. 16 to relieve the town's sewer plant, which is nearing capacity.

Kelly, describing himself as a "taxpayer, homeowner and concerned citizen," said this week that one point of the petition is to keep residents informed of municipal happenings. He estimated that "well over" 100 signatures have been collected from several locations.

"I feel we have to do some investigating of our sewer system be-

fore we put any more big buildings in town," Kelly said.

Anti-Bean petition

The building moratorium was part of a dual disappointment that caused local builders and tradesmen to petition for the resignation of Selectmen Chairman William D. Bean. The other motivating factor was the firing of veteran Building Inspector Edward M. "Buddy" Briggs. That petition, to date, has not been delivered.

As instituted, the building moratorium prohibits any development or subdivision producing more than 2,000 gallons of sewage a day. The average three-bedroom home produces about 330 gallons a day, meaning the moratorium limits any project with more than six such buildings. Town officials have said there were no active projects that failed to make the Nov. 1 cutoff date.

The Selectmen established the moratorium with no specific dead-

line. The board has indicated, however, that it may be lifted when a sewer expansion study is completed this spring.

Consultants picked

Last week, the Department of Public Works chose Sea Consultants of Cambridge to perform the study. At the same meeting, a pro-moratorium petition with eight signatures was being distributed. One of those signatures was that of Public Works Superintendent J. Peter Scolforo.

The completion of the sewer study, Scolforo has said, does not mean the building moratorium should automatically be lifted.

"I strongly feel we have to study it a little more than getting the report back and saying — bang, bang, this is what we want," he said last week.

Kelly said his petition, which would keep the moratorium for a year, will be turned in after Jan. 1.



HISTORIC BRIDGE on Golden Hill Road is blocking the path of progress. The Department of Public Works has been instructed not to build a new bridge unless the old one is preserved. William J. Carey

Wrought-iron bridge to past blocking road to future in Lee

By William J. Carey

LEE — Although they would have preferred it another way, town officials were informed last week that Lee has bragging rights to the oldest pinned, wrought-iron lenticular pony truss bridge in the state.

It's not that historic things aren't appreciated, for great pains have been taken to preserve the First Congregational Church steeple, the Civil War Memorial Town Hall, the Bradley Street School, the Berkshire Scenic Railway and other monuments to the past.

But this aging, one-lane bridge over the Housatonic River, which is unimpressive from a distance, is blocking the march of progress on Golden Hill Road. The Department of Public Works would like to upgrade the road and replace the bridge, only there's a hitch.

Built for \$924

A while back, the DPW asked the state to include the project under a federally aided bridge replacement program. The answer came back last week. According to the Massachusetts Historical Commission and state DPW, Lee's bridge, constructed in 1885 for \$924, is the oldest of five lenticular pony truss bridges in the state. As such, it is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

In a letter to the town, DPW District Highway Engineer Ellsworth

M. Sammet said, "Given this finding, the replacement of this bridge may not proceed until a resolution of its disposition is determined."

What, you may ask, is a lenticular pony truss bridge? Joseph A. Roulier, a bridge maintenance engineer with the state DPW, explained that lenticular refers to its overall curved shape, as in the lens of an eye. A pony truss is a supporting framework that extends above the deck. And in Lee's case, the wrought-iron truss components are pinned together.

"It's one of the unique ones," said Roulier. "There aren't very many like it in the commonwealth."

The 83-foot-long, 16-foot-wide bridge was built by the old Berlin Iron Bridge Co. of East Berlin, Conn., which laid claim to building 90 percent of the iron highway bridges in New York and Massachusetts between 1878 and 1888.

Quoting from a 1979 article in the Journal for Industrial Archaeology, William D. Smith, a preservation planner with the state historical commission, said the iron bridges were popular for their sound design and economy of materials. This held true in Lee, for the only renovations to the Golden Hill Road bridge took place in 1970, when the original timber planks were replaced with a steel grid deck, among other repairs.

Smith, an engineer, said he feels the Lee bridge and others should be saved from extinction. The state lists two additional historic bridges in Berkshire County: an 1885 lenticular through truss on Galvin Road in North Adams, and an 1888 lenticular pony truss on Pumpkin Hollow Road in Great Barrington.

"It is the heritage of all engineers," Smith said. "We're losing so much now because of the increased weight of trucks and automobiles, that everything is turning into concrete slabs. I think it's just as important to save some of our historic bridges as it is to save our historic buildings."

Heavier loads

Unfortunately, the Lee bridge has a load-bearing capacity of just 5 tons. Public Works Superintendent J. Peter Scolforo said his department would replace it with a two-lane bridge capable of handling far heavier loads.

Last week, the DPW board half-seriously considered moving the bridge to a site near the former Bradley Street School on Cape Street. The school, which was relocated twice, is being renovated into a single-family home.

"What I'd like to do is see if we can find some alternative spot for it," Scolforo said of the bridge.

9. Eagle, Tues. Dec. 29, 1987

Lee board sets hearing Jan. 13 on controversial condominiums

By William J. Carey

LEE — The Selectmen have scheduled a Jan. 13 public hearing to "modify or rescind" the 1985 special permit given to The Village at October Mountain for the construction of multifamily dwellings.

Citing pending litigation, Selectmen Chairman William D. Bean declined last night to comment on the implications of the hearing or the grounds for calling it. Notice of the hearing was first posted yesterday, two days after a joint inspection of the development by town officials.

"I'm not sure where they're going on that and I'm not sure what our response will be," said October Mountain lawyer Andrew M. Hochberg, when contacted after last night's meeting. "We'll make a decision on that shortly."

The posting of the notice follows a flurry of litigation involving the condominium development on the east side of town. In the past two months, disgruntled condominium owners have filed suit against the village developers — who, in turn, have filed a counter suit against them. And soon after doing that, the developers took legal action against the Selectmen and Building Inspector Robert W. Lester.

The developers, Robert H. Garrity and Philip M. Manger, charge that Lester is reneging on his duty to inspect buildings and if warranted, to issue the necessary permits. The Selectmen have ordered him not to, contending that October Mountain failed to comply with a 1986 ban on new construction. The ban was established to force the developers to comply with town building conditions.

When Lester's predecessor, Edward M. "Buddy" Briggs, refused to follow the board's instructions not to issue permits, he was fired.

The decision to inspect the development for building violations that would back up the town's case was reached last week in a closed meeting of major boards and officials. As scheduled, the inspection was held for two hours Saturday, with about 15 town officials participating. Also represented was Tighe & Bond

of Easthampton, the town's consulting engineers.

Bean said last night that violations were found, but he declined to elaborate.

Hochberg said a court conference had been scheduled for yesterday but was postponed because of the town's inspection. He said Town Counsel Jerome J. Scully has agreed to produce a report on that inspection in 10 days to comply with the state building code.

The action to modify or rescind October Mountain's original special permit may hinge on the wording, which allowed for 64 total units. As it stands, the development will have 104 total units when completed. But Hochberg pointed out that 40 units already existed when the special permit was granted.

"We've been building in compliance with that special permit all along," he said.

Eagle, Thurs. Dec. 31, 1987

Lee ambulance squad appeals for volunteers

LEE — The town's ambulance squad has issued an urgent appeal for volunteers.

Meeting with the Selectmen Monday, Director Kenneth J. LaBier said, "We are facing a serious daytime shortage. It's becoming critical."

LaBier said the ambulance squad has a total of 25 volunteers, but only a handful are available for daytime service. The shift during which there are gaps, he said, is between 6 a.m. and 6 p.m.

To qualify for the ambulance squad, a person must be at least 18 years old, have a valid Massachusetts driver's license, and be in reasonably good health. The person must also pass a basic emergency medical technician course, which is paid for by the town.

LaBier said the next course begins Jan. 14 at Berkshire Medical Center. It will be held Mondays and Thursdays from 7 to 10 p.m. until May 2.

In addition to Lee and 20 miles of the Massachusetts Turnpike, the ambulance squad covers Stockbridge and Tyringham. LaBier said volunteers are welcome from those towns and other communities.

During the daytime shift, volunteers wear a pager and report to the garage on Railroad Street when a call is received. Of the hours, La-

Bier said, "we're flexible."

Also Monday, the Selectmen were informed of several code violations in two holding cells at the town police station. The violations were listed in a letter from Hillel Liebert, district health officer of the state Department of Public Health.

According to Liebert, a Dec. 14 inspection found the cells lacked smoke detectors, written evacuation plans and protective plastic covering for bar structures. It could not be ascertained whether blankets were flame-retardant.

Selectman Diane P. Roosa, who serves as a secretary for the police department, said that as a result of the inspection, smoke detectors had been installed, and a plan of evacuation prepared.

The police station and holding cells are in cramped, aging quarters in the basement of the Civil War Memorial Town Hall. The town has begun a study to renovate that building, and to move the police, ambulance squad and town switchboard to another location.

In lieu of that facility, the town had asked for a waiver from the holding cell requirements, the Selectmen said.

"It seems to me like they're trying to put big-city standards on a small town," commented Chairman William D. Bean.

Wednesday, December 30, 1987

Berkshire population drops Number of residents in state rises 1.7%

By Lewis C. Cuyler

PITTSFIELD — Berkshire County is losing population and the incomes of its residents are below the state averages, according to U.S. Census figures.

Those figures were released through the state data center at the Massachusetts Institute for Social and Economic Research at the University of Massachusetts.

The census estimated per capita income for county residents in 1985 at \$11,198, a figure that is \$1,312 less than the \$12,510 estimated for the state as a whole. State per capita incomes rose 67.8 percent between 1979 and 1985, compared to 63.7 percent for the Berkshires.

Berkshire population dropped by 2.6 percent between 1980 and 1986, according to the census estimates, while the state's population rose by 1.7 percent. Specifically, the census estimated the county's population at 141,300 in 1986, down from 145,110 in the 1980 census.

Decline noted previously

The fact that the county's population is dropping should come as no surprise since the trend was documented during the 1985 state census and confirmed in local headcounting. In October, The Eagle reported that marketing reports for Pyramid Companies, which is building a mall in Lanesboro, and Shopco, which hopes to build a mall in Pittsfield, both agreed that the county's population would continue its decline, at least until 1991.

The federal population estimates vary from the count taken in 1986 by the county's town and city clerks. Their estimates, as recorded in the 1986-87 county officials book issued by the Berkshire County Commission, put the county's population at 139,851, down 1,449 from the federal estimate.

Asked to explain the discrepancy, Michael K. Roof, a U.S. Bureau of

the Census statistician, said the national estimates are much more accurate for communities of more than 25,000 than they are for the smaller towns. The Berkshires have 30 towns and two cities, North Adams and Pittsfield. The only community in the county with more than 25,000 residents is Pittsfield.

'10 percent accuracy'

"While we have found that our methods of estimating are highly accurate for larger areas, we are happy with 10 percent accuracy for the smaller towns," he said.

The census estimates start with the base figures established in 1980, he said, then subtract deaths and add births. The census determines moves in and out of communities through income tax records, and factors in data received on institutional populations and from local censuses. People in institutions, such as colleges or prisons, he said, are counted as residents of the community where the institution is located.

The state census and local censuses since 1985 also count "every-one who sleeps in a community," said Mary Ann Abusi, city clerk for North Adams.

Williamstown provides an example of the discrepancy between the federal estimates and those made locally. The U.S. Census estimated Williamstown's 1986 population at 8,090, a drop of 7.4 percent from the 1980 figure of 8,741. The county records, based on local headcounts, indicate a Williamstown population in 1986 of 8,450, 360 more than the federal figure. Therefore, according to local records, Williamstown's population dropped by 291 between 1980 and 1986 instead of 651 as indicated by the federal estimates.

Explanatory material from the state data center said the per capita income estimates are based on the 1980 census and updated using rates

of change developed from various administrative records, including those from the Internal Revenue Service and the Bureau of Economic Analysis. Per capita is the average amount of all sources of income for each person in a community.

The census estimates show that Stockbridge residents have the highest per capita income in the county, \$17,823. The highest in the state is Weston, a Boston suburb, at \$35,260.

Stockbridge is followed by Alford, \$16,280; Tyringham, \$15,392; New Ashford, \$14,946; and Richmond, \$14,605.

None of the Berkshire communities made the top 25 list of highest per capita estimated incomes in the state's 351 communities, but four of them made the list of the 25 lowest.

Ranked next to last, 350th, is the town of Florida with per capita income listed at \$7,642. Washington holds position 346 with \$8,291; North Adams is 341 with \$8,839; and Savoy, 337th with \$9,045.

Not surprisingly, the estimated figures show that the greatest gains in population were in the smaller towns where the addition of only a few people results in a substantial percentage increase.

The population of Peru, for instance, grew by 28.3 percent, from 633 in 1980 to 810 in 1986. Becket's population was up by 20.5 percent, from 1,339 to 1,610; and Monterey's was up 18.2 percent, from 818 to 970. Other communities showing gains were Alford, Cheshire, Hinsdale, Lanesboro, Lenox, Mount Washington, New Marlboro, Otis, Sandisfield, Savoy, Stockbridge, Tyringham, Washington, West Stockbridge and Windsor.

Top population losers

Both Pittsfield and North Adams hit the state's top 25 list for the largest population losers.

Pittsfield's loss of 2,394, a drop of 4.6 percent from 51,974 to 49,580, put it in eighth position, and North Adams' decrease of 1,043, down 5.8 percent from 18,063 to 17,020, put it at 24th.

The largest estimated drop in population was for New Ashford, from 159 to 140, a decrease of 13.2 percent. Other decreases were reported for Adams, Clarksburg, Dalton, Egremont, Florida, Great

MASSACHUSETTS PER CAPITA INCOME, 1985 U.S. BUREAU OF THE CENSUS



1985 PER CAPITA INCOME

□ \$6409 TO \$10,417
▒ \$10,417 TO \$11,829
▓ \$11,829 TO \$13,720
■ \$13,720 TO \$35,261

Barrington, Hancock, Lee, Richmond, Sheffield and Williamstown. The statewide figures show a shift

of population westward with per capita incomes rising in towns that are west of Boston's wealthy suburbs, roughly between Routes 128 and 495. The largest population gains continue to be on Cape Cod. Boston, itself, gained 10,606 residents between 1980 and 1986, for a total of 573,600, making it the only large eastern city with gains since 1980, according to The Boston Globe.

on Social and Economic Research

	1986	1980	% CHANGE	1985	1979	% CHANGE
MASSACHUSETTS	5,832,000	5,737,093	1.7	12,510	7,457	67.8
BERKSHIRE COUNTY	141,300	145,110	-2.6	11,198	6,842	63.7
NORTH ADAMS	17,020	18,063	-5.8	8,839	5,602	57.8
PITTSFIELD	49,580	51,974	-4.6	11,751	7,105	65.4
ADAMS	10,080	10,381	-2.9	9,980	6,200	61.0
ALFORD	400	394	1.3	16,280	10,331	57.5
BECKET	1,610	1,339	20.5	10,740	6,408	67.6
CHESHIRE	3,340	3,124	7.0	10,695	6,325	69.1
CLARKSBURG	1,790	1,871	-4.1	9,656	6,021	60.4
DALTON	6,510	6,797	-4.2	11,960	7,312	63.6
EGREMONT	1,310	1,311	-4	13,197	7,784	69.5
FLORIDA	690	730	-6.2	7,642	5,197	47.0
GREAT BARRINGTON	7,280	7,405	-1.8	10,966	6,823	60.7
HANCOCK	600	643	-6.1	9,885	6,185	59.8
HINSDALE	1,780	1,707	4.2	10,013	5,810	72.3
LANESBORO	3,170	3,131	1.4	11,218	6,632	69.1
LEE	6,030	6,247	-3.4	11,055	6,870	60.9
LENEX	6,550	6,523	4	11,882	7,106	67.2
MONTEREY	970	818	18.2	12,615	8,426	49.7
MOUNT WASHINGTON	100	93	8.6	10,617	6,543	62.3
NEW ASHFORD	140	159	-13.2	14,946	9,137	63.6
NEW MARLBORO	1,330	1,160	14.9	12,354	7,471	65.4
OTIS	980	963	1.9	9,754	6,258	55.9
PERU	810	633	28.3	9,653	6,009	60.6
RICHMOND	1,640	1,659	-1.4	14,605	8,645	68.9
SANDISFIELD	810	720	11.8	9,462	5,714	65.6
SAVOY	770	644	19.9	9,045	5,501	64.4
SHEFFIELD	2,660	2,743	-3.0	10,253	6,692	53.2
STOCKBRIDGE	2,340	2,328	5	17,823	10,295	73.1
TYRINGHAM	380	344	10.5	15,392	9,076	69.6
WASHINGTON	610	587	4.1	8,291	5,462	51.8
WEST STOCKBRIDGE	1,310	1,280	2.0	10,950	7,149	53.2
WILLIAMSTOWN	8,090	8,741	-7.4	12,078	7,388	63.5
WINDSOR	620	598	4.0	12,945	7,477	73.1

10-
Berkshire Eagle, Sat. Jan. 2, 1988



FACING THE WRECKING BALL is the old St. Mary's School on Academy Street. Faced with the high cost of renovating it, the St. Mary's parish council has recommended to the Springfield Diocese that the building be demolished and replaced with a parking lot.

William J. Carey

Old parochial school in Lee due to become a parking lot

By William J. Carey

LEE — Though some parishioners want it saved, the St. Mary's Church parish council has taken the first step toward demolishing the old parochial school building on Academy Street.

At a meeting in November, the council voted in the majority to notify Bishop Joseph F. Maguire and the Springfield Diocese of its desire to raze the building and replace it with a parking lot. The final decision will come from the diocese.

Last resort

While taken as a last resort and deemed unfortunate, the vote boiled down to a simple matter of economics. The Rev. Howard W. McCormick, pastor of the church and an ex-officio member of the council, said the parish is having trouble enough supporting the new school on Orchard Street without paying up to \$150,000 for renovations to its predecessor, now vacant and increasingly becoming a hazard.

"We're trying to keep an eight-grade school open and it's silly to do both," he said. "We just felt, as a parish, we're struggling to keep alive without spending money."

There are some parishioners, however, who oppose the demolition of the old schoolhouse and want the channels to renovating it left open. They see the building as being structurally sound and having great potential for a preschool or some other educational purpose.

The second study placed a more ambitious estimate of \$136,000 for interior and exterior renovations to prepare the building for a first-floor day-care school and second-floor parish and community center. It said demolishing the building and paving the area for a parking lot, a last resort, would cost about \$23,945.

McCormick said the price to fully renovate the building now would be about \$150,000.

Swegel, who was instrumental in obtaining grant money for a preschool in Otis, would like to do the same in Lee using the old schoolhouse. She wrote to the diocese last spring to explore the possibility of securing a long-term lease, but never received a reply. And without a lease commitment, she has been unable to nail down private or public funds.

Others, including Sister Barbara Price, St. Mary's School principal, would like to see the building saved.

"I think there are purposes it could be used for — educationally," she said. "But people in the parish don't see it that way. I'm kind of disappointed to see it go down. It's a

historic building."

Barbara Unsworth, an Academy Street resident who lives in view of the building, said that it is unfortunate the diocese has no preservation fund. The presence of the building, she observed, reflects the importance that its founders attached to education.

"I just hate to see buildings with such history demolished," she said.

William J. Maroney Jr., chairman of the 22-member parish council, could not be reached by The Eagle. The council secretary, Theresa Sorrentino, said the vote to raze the building, which was presented in the form of a recommendation to the diocese, was tabled for a year to give Swegel and others a chance to save it. The vote carries with it a provision that the building will be spared if a feasible renovation plan presents itself.

Sorrentino, a 1947 graduate of the old school, was in opposition to that vote.

"I look at the building and I see people," she said. "I just don't see an antiquated building — it has some meaning."

"There are a lot of good things that can be done with that building," said Theresa G. Swegel of Orchard Street. "But you can't do anything with a parking lot."

Founded by five French nuns, St. Mary's School is the oldest parochial school in Berkshire County. Its original home, the two-story wooden schoolhouse on Academy Street, was built in 1885 as a gift from Jane Sedgwick of Stockbridge, a wealthy convert from Protestantism.

The building was closed in 1957 with the opening of the new school. Used briefly as a town kindergarten, it has received little maintenance in the past several years. The church opens it once each summer to conduct its annual tag sale.

After inspecting the building, James N. Parrish of the Berkshire County Regional Planning Commission wrote that it had both architectural and historic significance. Parrish said he would "highly recommend a careful restoration or conversion to a new use."

Two studies were commissioned by the church in 1983 and 1984 to assess the condition of the building and propose future uses. In both cases, the recommendations came back to preserve it. Outright sale of the building was opposed because it would break up the continuity of church property on Academy Street.

The first study produced a minimum cost estimate of \$24,000 to simply preserve the building, with another \$13,000 to make it "basically suitable" for parish needs. The authors recommended repairing the building and proposed that space be rented out to different groups, with the rent structured to pay for annual maintenance.

tagle, Tues. Jan. 5, 1988

Lee seeks grant to study feasibility of industrial park

By William J. Carey

LEE — The town will apply for a \$30,000 state grant to study the feasibility of developing land off Route 102 for a light industrial park.

The Selectmen voted unanimously to approve the application following a public hearing attended by about 20 people. A few of the observers had questions, but there was no opposition.

The town's Community Development Corp. has targeted roughly 80 acres north of Route 102 and east of Highfield Drive for the industrial park. Richard E. Sitzer, chairman of the CDC, said the park is one way to strike a "balance" among service and manufacturing jobs in the community. He said manufacturing jobs are important to the local standard of living because they pay more than service jobs.

Sitzer also pointed out that Lee's inability to provide adequate land resulted in the move by Kay-Bee Toys to Pittsfield, where it now has a large office building. The company maintains a warehouse on Route 102.

The feasibility study is but a preliminary step to developing the targeted parcel. Three landowners — Isodore Goodman of Pittsfield, Highfield Realty Trust and Seth H. Hopkins of Lee — would have to be negotiated with for the sale of their property. And town meeting approval would be necessary to rezone the land behind Route 102 for light industrial uses.

According to one CDC member, all three parties have been approached and all but Hopkins have indicated a willingness to negotiate. Hopkins' property is key because it lies closest to the road and is needed for the park's only proposed entrance.

Karl A. Hekler of the Berkshire County Regional Planning Commission, which is preparing the grant application, said taking land by eminent domain "is a possible tool if the town felt strong enough" about the park. However, the CDC is considering other options to a hostile taking, said member An-

thony Caropreso.

Edward M. "Buddy" Briggs, a town meeting representative, said he had received five phone calls from residents of Highfield Drive who are concerned that only one entrance, from Route 102, be installed. Sitzer confirmed that Route 102 is the only proposed site for an entrance — a plan that would keep commercial traffic off residential streets above the site.

Frank P. Consolati, a trustee of Highfield Realty Trust, which has developed the Highfield Drive area, assured that "there will be no industrial area interfering with Highfield Drive."

Asked about possible uses of the site, Sitzer said, "If this thing becomes feasible, at that point we can put parameters on the type of industry we want."

The state grant, if approved, requires a \$3,000 match by the town. It would pay for a feasibility study covering the marketing, engineering, environmental and financial aspects of developing the park.

Other business

In other business, the Selectmen scheduled a special town meeting for Jan. 20 at 7:30 p.m. at Lee High School to deal with emergency funding for the Central School roof and eight other articles.

The School Committee has requested \$231,000 for engineering, architectural and construction costs of repairing the deteriorated roofs above the gymnasium and classroom wings of the school. The committee has selected Joseph Francese Inc. of Pittsfield as general contractor pending town meeting approval of the funds.

School Committee Chairman Judith L. Olds told the Selectmen that Francese would probably begin the job next month and finish it in six to eight weeks. School officials have said that students will be moved accordingly during the work.

Also, the Selectmen received a letter from Joseph and Audrey Furgal of Golden Hill Road who said they were "disturbed" to learn of town plans to replace the historic one-lane iron bridge on the eastern end of the road. The Department of Public Works is planning a sturdier, two-lane bridge.

The Furgals said they are concerned that progress is not the only motive to replacing the bridge. Those attending last night's meeting pointed out that Golden Hill Road is one of the last sparsely developed areas in town. They said three parties, the Kimberly-Clark Corp., Edwin Sadlowski and Joanne E. Nunes, own prime undeveloped properties there.

The Furgals wrote: "It would be a shame and a waste of money to replace the iron bridge, because as the saying goes — if it ain't broke, why fix it?"

tagle, Sat. Jan 9, 1988

Lee official defends denial of permits for condo project

LEE — The town has issued a five-point explanation of its refusal to grant occupancy permits for new condominium units at The Village at October Mountain.

The explanation, signed by Building Inspector Robert W. Lester, was sent to developers Philip M. Manger and Robert H. Garrity earlier this week. Last month, the developers took legal action compelling Lester to resume inspections and, if warranted, to issue permits. By law, he is required to explain a permit denial within 10 days of an inspection.

The Selectmen have ordered Lester not to issue permits, contending that certain buildings at the village fall under a 1986 construction ban and should never have been built. Lester's predecessor, Edward M. "Buddy" Briggs, had refused to withhold the permits and was fired.

Occupancy permits, known as COs, certify that a unit is approved for use as a dwelling. They also are needed to close a condominium sale.

The five-point explanation pertains to one of four individual units in Building 20 but is applicable to the town's overall denial of occupancy permits. According to Lester's letter, the developers:

- Violated the conditions of a special permit given to October Mountain in 1985 for the construction of multifamily dwellings in general.

- Ignored the 1986 construction ban.

- Added too many units to the town's sewer system.

- Did not file a site plan.

- Failed to follow instructions of the Conservation Commission.

Alleging further problems, the Selectmen have scheduled a Jan. 13 public hearing to "modify or rescind" the original 1985 special permit.

Pittsfield attorney Andrew M. Hochberg, who represents October Mountain, said the developers did not violate the special permit and have complied with all town conditions. He said the Selectmen are wrongfully withholding permits.

No drainage plan?

Specifically, Lester's first point holds that October Mountain failed to obtain an approved drainage plan from the Department of Public Works as spelled out in the special permit. Also, the special permit allowed for only 16 buildings, with a total of 64 units. The town contends that 80 units now exist.

"The present construction exceeds the amount of units authorized by said permit," Lester wrote.

The second point states that a blanket building permit was re-

scinded by the Selectmen on Aug. 28, 1986, and that a cease-and-desist order from Briggs followed in October.

"You therefore have no building permit for the construction of this unit and are under a cease and desist order from the building inspector," Lester wrote.

The third point states that 80 units were connected to the town's sewer system when only 64 were allowed by the state Department of Environmental Quality Engineering, which issues sewer permits for large developments.

The fourth point states that a certified copy of an as-built site plan must be filed before an occupancy permit is issued.

Lastly, Lester states that October Mountain to date has not carried out a 1986 plan to correct drainage and soil erosion. The plan resulted from an out-of-court settlement with the Conservation Commission, which sought legal action to stop construction.

Developers' rebuttal

In response, Hochberg said October Mountain does have an approved drainage plan from the DPW as well as a letter from its consultants, engineer Robert B. Duffy and surveyor Robert D. Jordan, stating that drainage was completed in accordance with the plan.

Secondly, he said, the Selectmen do not have the authority to rescind a building permit, stopping construction. He said Briggs only relayed the stop order from the Selectmen and never issued such an order himself. Regarding the total number of units, he said, the units in excess of the 64 allowed by the town and DEQE were pre-existing rental units.

Hochberg said he believes that site plans were filed in satisfaction of the fourth condition. Of the Conservation Commission's drainage plan, he said all conditions have been followed.

"It's interesting," he said, "that they're raising this issue now when 50 COs have already been issued."

The attorney said October Mountain is exploring its options in light of the town's stance on permits. He said any action taken by the Selectmen on Jan. 13 would be "wholly without authority."

Lee and Tyringham school boards bring about resignation of Truesdell

By William J. Carey

LEE — Representatives of the Lee, Otis and Tyringham school boards voted 6-2 last night not to renew the contract of Superintendent of Schools Clarence C. Truesdell.

The group later rescinded its vote in order to accept a prepared, one-line resignation from Truesdell, who came to the school system in August of 1985. The resignation takes effect this Aug. 4 and was accepted "with regret."

Had his three-year contract been renewed, Truesdell would have been eligible for tenure next year. He currently earns a yearly salary of \$50,880.

The three communities make up School Superintendency Union 29, which has a total of 1,049 students in two elementary schools, at Lee and Otis, and in one high school at Lee. On joint decisions, each school board has three votes.

Leadership lacking

Voting against the contract renewal were six members of the Lee and Tyringham boards, with two members from Otis in favor. The



Clarence C. Truesdell

third Otis representative, Robert Clark, is chairman of the joint committee and votes only in tie situations.

Truesdell, who holds a doctorate in education from Harvard, was criticized by the full Lee School Committee in December for a perceived lack of leadership and visibility in the community. Those criticisms were summarized last night by Chairman Judith L. Olds, a voting member of the joint committee.

Apart from leadership and visibility, Olds said her committee gave Truesdell "satisfactory" grades in

the areas of curriculum development, management style, teacher communications, professional growth and knowledge of contracts and general laws. It said he needed improvement in preparing the budget and in communicating with the committee and general public.

Absent from town meeting

Marion T. Clark of Tyringham said her committee found "very little initiative leadership ability," and was disappointed that Truesdell failed to show for last year's annual town meeting. She said a mistake was made in voting the budget that could have been cleared up had he been available.

"Our evaluation isn't too favorable, really," she said. "The main thing is the budget, and he wasn't there."

George F. Dillman of Otis said his committee was "very satisfied with the efforts of the superintendent" and had given him a "top rating." He said Truesdell carefully selected new teachers and programs and was open to suggestions from the committee.

Also backing the superintendent was David Roberts of Otis, who suggested that Lee and Tyringham members were finding fault with his social, rather than academic qualities.

"I went to him as a parent with a problem and it was cleared up right there," he said. "I don't think I've seen anyone more interested in the school, in the children."

'Shift in emphasis'

In hiring teachers and starting programs, Roberts said, "your goals are met five years down the road and I'd hate to see someone cut off in the middle."

Olds replied: "When we first interviewed him I saw him as a dynamic individual. After two and a half years, I haven't seen what I

expected to see."

Before the vote was taken, Truesdell said he would rather resign than disappoint the expectations of the committee members. He pointed out that only two members remain from the committee that first interviewed him, and that he felt a "substantial shift in emphasis" had taken place since then.

"If it's better for you, I would prefer to resign," he said. "I think you should have the person you would like to have."

Following the vote, Joseph C. Savery of Lee, who is not a voting member of the joint committee, asked the members to rescind their vote in order to let Truesdell resign. Copies of the resignation were passed for approval to each member.

The committee immediately began preparations for a search committee to select a new superintendent. It agreed to set a negotiable salary in the mid-\$40,000 range and to set a March 15 deadline for applications.

NBCC sets clinics

ADAMS — Northern Berkshire Comprehensive Care, a non-profit health agency, will conduct health consultation clinics in January. Nurses from NBCC, which is affiliated with North Adams Regional Hospital, will check blood pressure and other vital signs and provide counseling. Free health and wellness information will be available for all who attend.

The clinics will be:

- Today at Adams Community Center from 10 to 11:30.
- Wednesdays, Jan. 13 and 20 at Columbia Valley Housing, at the corner of Columbia and Valley streets, from 9 to 11.
- Wednesday, Jan. 27 at Barrett House from 1 to 2.

Lee's Strategic Planning Task Force: Hire town planner, update bylaws

By Erik Bruun

LEE — After more than a year of studying residents' desires and needs, the Strategic Planning Task Force said Thursday the town should consider hiring a town planner, encourage the development of a light industrial park and update its bylaws.

Task force members said the results of a townwide survey indicated that residents' goals were somewhat at odds: more open space, more affordable housing and more light industrial development.

"You can't have your cake and eat it too," task force Chairman Sallie Kate Kish said. "You have to make choices."

Kish added, however, that encouraging cluster housing developments — where housing units are concentrated in a small area and are surrounded by open space — may be a way for the town to provide more housing and still preserve open space.

Major housing developments

The task force's report was the culmination of a study undertaken through a \$45,000 grant to Lee and Egremont from the state Executive Office of Communities and Development ar-

ranged by the Berkshire County Regional Planning Commission. Both towns were faced with the prospect of major housing developments and wanted to study the planning needs of their community. The two towns hired Thomas Planning Services of Boston, a land-use regulations and housing specialist, to assist.

Kish said the task force would continue to meet to make recommendations on how the town can improve its municipal services and zoning bylaws. She encouraged residents to make suggestions to the committee for specific recommendations.

Affordable housing was one of the major concerns of the task force, committee member Don Hunter said. He said the average resident can afford a house costing about \$62,000 but that the average price for a home in Lee is more than \$115,000.

Options for providing affordable housing include building public housing and public-assisted housing and writing flexible bylaws to allow developers to bypass certain zoning restrictions in exchange for building affordable housing.

Hunter added that land-use planning was a very complicated and time-consuming task that

is beyond the scope of volunteers.

"The unanimous opinion was that we need professional help," he said. "We need someone who can devote himself full time to development. The town needs someone who can guide us."

Task force members said multi-family housing, cluster developments and mobile homes were ways to provide affordable housing. Although a majority of residents in the survey said they were opposed to those types of developments, Kish said townspeople "have a responsibility to be open-minded" about different land uses.

In order to keep the town's relatively high-paying manufacturing jobs, task force member Francis Foley Jr. said the town should encourage the construction of a light industrial park off Route 102. As lower-paying service jobs replace manufacturing jobs in local businesses, Foley said it was important that the town actively work toward the construction of an industrial area along Route 102, which was identified in the study as the best place for commercial development.

Kish said the town may have to expand the industrial zone in a small area on Route 102 to allow the project to be built.

Eagle, SAT Jan 9, 1988



William J. Carey

FRONT LINE of defenders for The Village at October Mountain included, from left, construction supervisor Jeffrey D. Macek, attorneys Andrew M. Hochberg and Gerald A. Denmark and developers Robert H. Garrity and Philip M. Manger. About 80 people attended the public hearing last night at the Airolodi Building.

Lee Selectmen postpone action on October Mountain permit

By William J. Carey

LEE — Town officials and proponents of The Village at October Mountain traded arguments last night without a clear resolution of the problems that have plagued the East Street condominium development.

The purpose of the meeting, a posted public hearing, was to consider modifying or rescinding the special permit given to October Mountain in 1985 for the construction of 64 condominiums in 16 buildings.

The Selectmen contend that developers Robert H. Garrity and Philip M. Manger have violated terms of that permit and ignored subsequent commands from the town. In response, they have forbidden Building Inspector Robert W. Lester from issuing certificates of occupancy, which are needed to close sales for completed units.

October Mountain has taken legal action to compel Lester to issue those permits, if warranted. On Friday, it laid off 47 workers as the stalemate continued.

Two hours of debate

After two hours of debate last night, the hearing was adjourned to next Wednesday at 7 p.m., just prior to a scheduled special town meeting. At that time, the Selectmen will make their decision on the special permit.

Despite the absence of agreement, the hearing produced some clear-cut opinions from the crowd of about 80 people who packed the waiting room outside the Selectmen's office.

Michael Prokup, an attorney and condominium owner from Allentown, Pa., accused both sides of carrying on a "high stakes game of

chicken."

He suggested, "What you ought to do is shake hands and say hello to each other."

Joseph Castronova of Bradley Street, an abutter of the project and member of the Department of Public Works board, offered words of praise for the town.

"Personally, I think the town has bent over backwards" for the developers, he said. "I want to commend the Board of Selectmen for taking this stand. It's a tough issue. It's polarized the town of Lee."

Praise from employees

Jeffrey Williams, an employee of October Mountain, came to Garrity's defense.

"You don't realize what he's done for this town," Williams said. "He's helped a lot of people who are out of work."

Another employee, construction supervisor Jeffrey D. Macek, said Garrity and Manger have done more to control their project than any other developers in his 20 years of experience in the building trade.

The hearing kicked off to an ominous start when Selectmen Chairman William D. Bean, reading from a typed statement, said his board had intercepted a written communication between the developers and condominium owners.

"The letter appears to me to be an attempt to lay the blame for all the troubles at October Mountain at the foot of the owners' association and the town of Lee," Bean said. "... I view the developers' action as an effort to put undue pressure on this board, and I can assure you that the board will take whatever action is necessary to ensure compliance with the law, and in the best interest of public safety."

Lester then read the town's five-point explanation for denying occupancy permits, and reports were submitted by the Conservation Commission and DPW based on a site inspection Dec. 26.

Retention pond

The most damaging indictment was made against a drainage retention pond that holds runoff water from the hilltop development. Controlling drainage is one of four major conditions outlined in the 1985 special permit.

David M. Lenart of Tighe & Bond consulting engineers said a head-wall at the pond had shifted, placing in doubt its ability to keep water from flooding onto East Street. The town and October Mountain differ on whether proper plans were approved for the pond structure.

"This has moved, most likely because of its inability to withstand the forces behind it," Lenart said. "Therefore, it is not adequately designed."

October Mountain's lawyers, Gerald A. Denmark and Andrew M. Hochberg, refuted the town's claims and said the developers have satisfied the conditions of the special permit and have taken the necessary corrective measures.

Eagle, Wed. Jan. 13, 1987
**Former Lee building inspector
 claims he's become a 'scapegoat'**

By William J. Carey

LEE — Former Building Inspector Edward M. "Buddy" Briggs has taken exception to the town's explanation of its refusal to grant occupancy permits at The Village at October Mountain.

Briggs, an 18-year veteran inspector, was fired and locked out of his office in November when he defied the Selectmen by issuing an occupancy permit. His successor, Robert W. Lester, provided a written explanation of the town's stance on permits last week at the request of October Mountain developers Philip M. Manger and Robert H. Garrity.

According to Briggs, one of the town's arguments — that Manger and Garrity built more condominiums than allowed by a 1985 special permit — might imply that he acted improperly by issuing extra building permits. That is not the case, he said.

Another argument, that Briggs issued a cease-and-desist order to stop construction, is not true, he said.

"I feel I'm being used as a scapegoat and it shouldn't be," Briggs said this week.

Public hearing tonight

Briggs's rebuttal was made in advance of a public hearing that will be held by the Selectmen tonight at 7:30 to consider modifying or rescinding October Mountain's special permit. Briggs said he will not attend that hearing.

In his explanation, Lester said the special permit allowed for 16 buildings with a total of 64 condominium units. He said 80 units now exist.

Briggs said the 16 other units fell under a 1974 special permit given to Garrity and Edward R. Slosek for the construction of 40 rental units in 10 buildings. A condition of the latest special permit was to remodel

the rental units into condominiums, he said.

Once the Selectmen issued that permit, which allows for multi-family dwellings in general, the project came under the jurisdiction of the building inspector, who enforces the state building code. The town's argument that too many units were constructed, Briggs said, implies that he issued unqualified building permits.

'Nothing underhanded'

"There has been nothing underhanded done with building permits," he said. "Every one of those building permits is legal."

Also, Briggs said he never issued a cease-and-desist order stopping construction of new buildings in 1986. He said he only relayed an order that was telephoned to him by Selectman William D. Bean, now chairman of the board. By halting construction, the Selectmen sought to pressure the developers into complying with town building conditions.

However, Briggs said the board has no such authority. And when the matter of authority rose again — over the issuance of occupancy permits — he refused to comply.

Occupancy permits are required to certify that a building is approved for use as a dwelling. They are also needed to close a condominium sale.

Briggs, a former president of the Berkshire County Building Inspector's Association and sitting member of the county's Building Code Appeals Board, said he had no reason to blemish his record by courting developers. In his term, he added, there were no building failures or building-related injuries.

Eagle, Sat. Jan. 17, 1988
**Lee special town meeting
 scheduled for Wednesday**

LEE — Representatives will tackle nine funding articles, including a \$231,000 repair bill for the Central School roof, at a special town meeting Wednesday.

Due to an error in preparing the warrant, the meeting has been scheduled for 7 p.m., a half-hour earlier than usual, at Lee High School. Town officials said no business will be conducted until 7:30.

The primary purpose of the special meeting will be to appropriate money for the roof repair. In September, the school gymnasium was ordered closed after two custodians discovered extensive damage to the roof decking. An engineering report later called for roof repairs for the classroom wing as well.

On Sept. 22, the School Committee declared an emergency situation in order to qualify for state funding under the school building assistance program. In one of its final acts of the year, the state Legislature committed \$21 million to keep that program in business.

However, school Buildings and Grounds Superintendent James D. Gralla said there can be no application for state funds until the town meeting takes action. If Lee wins state approval, it will be reimbursed for 65 percent of the roof cost over five years.

Gralla said state officials have toured the school and are "well aware" of the situation. He said the chosen contractor for the job, Joseph Francese Inc. of Pittsfield, is doing preliminary work in anticipation of the town meeting.

ipation of the town meeting.

Francese bid \$196,196 for its services. The remainder of the cost is for the membrane roof and contingency, engineering and architectural fees. According to the warrant, \$200,000 would be transferred from the stabilization account and \$31,000 from the overlay account.

School officials hope much of the work can be done during a weeklong winter break starting Feb. 15. While school is in session, students will be shifted to accommodate the construction.

The next largest money article seeks \$21,500 for the payment of medical bills due to a resident under his veterans' benefits. Seventy-percent of the cost will be reimbursed by the state.

The remaining articles seek the following: \$8,000 for the purchase of an emergency generator for the Airolti Building; \$5,000 for a hazardous waste collection day this spring; \$4,800 for installing a new heating system at the Lee Library; \$4,000 for the gas inspector's account; \$4,000 for the wire inspector's account; \$2,100 for future library maintenance, and \$800 for a new typewriter for the library.

Berkshire Eagle, Tues. Jan. 19, 1988 15

Plan to preserve Goodman farmland for all time to be submitted to state

By William J. Carey

LEE — A plan to keep 128 acres off Stockbridge Road as perpetual farmland will be submitted to the state after gaining the valuable endorsement of the Selectmen.

Robert J. Bartini of Fairview Street, who plans to buy the land from Pittsfield realtor Isodore Goodman, said yesterday he is following through with an application for state assistance under the Agricultural Preservation Restriction program. If approved, the land would forever be protected from development.

"The ball's on the roll," said Bartini, an abutter who has farmed the Goodman land for nearly four years.

In June of 1986, a Boston-based group proposed building 506 condominiums on the property, which

faces Wright's Garage on Stockbridge Road. That plan later was dropped in the face of stiff opposition, and Bartini's proposal came to the fore.

On Jan. 11, the Selectmen agreed to lend their signatures to the APR application. Although the board's approval is required only when the town participates financially, which in this case it will not, the endorsement should improve Bartini's chances.

Heavy competition

Under the APR program, the state obtains development rights by paying landowners the difference between the appraised value of their land and what a developer would pay for it. State Rep. Christopher J. Hodgkins, D-Lee, said there is heavy competition for the \$30 million available through the program.

Town approval was not automatic. Selectmen Chairman William D. Bean and another town official, Planning Board Chairman Sallie Kate Kish, had expressed reservations in the past and were unconvinced of the program's benefit coming into the Jan. 11 meeting.

Bean said his board signed only after gaining assurances that the proposal would be reviewed by the Planning Board and town's strategic planning task force. He said the Selectmen still have the option of opposing the application in the next several months before any decision is made.

The land is "probably one of the last really good pieces of property we have," he said. "Just to write it off without having a good look at it would be irresponsible."

Affordable housing need

In addition, Bean said the property potentially could be divided to preserve space and leave room for housing.

After polling her board, Kish said members had "mixed feelings" about the use of taxpayers' money for preserving one person's land. She said members recognize the need for open space but also see a need for more housing development in town.

"It's a tough issue," Kish said yesterday. "I personally am torn between the need to keep green space and the need for housing."

Hodgkins, a sponsor of the APR program, said the land holds no future for affordable housing as

evidenced by the condominium plan, which priced two-bedroom units at \$175,000 and three-bedroom units at \$225,000.

"We're not saving the farmer," he said. "We're saving the farm."

Selectman Christopher A. Salinetti and George S. Wislocki, executive director of the Berkshire Natural Resources Council, were in agreement.

"I just don't think anything that's built up there will ever be affordable housing," Salinetti said. "There's other land in town that can be used for housing."

Strong support

Wislocki, who helped prepare Bartini's application, said it would be "fairly unrealistic" to believe anything but expensive homes would be built.

"I support this application in a big way," he said. "I think it's a good one."

Bartini said the application is being reviewed by Town Counsel Jerome J. Scully and will be forwarded to Boston by next Tuesday. While the selection process takes about a year, he said state officials have already seen the land and are "very interested" in preserving it. In addition, positive results came back from a test of the soil's fertility.

Nevertheless, the land still belongs to Goodman, who signed an agreement in November compelling him not to sell it for 120 working days. If that agreement expires before the state takes action, Bartini said he would seek to renew it.

Thurs. Jan. 21, 1988 Berkshire Eagle

Lee OK's \$231,000 for school roof work

LEE — With little discussion, town meeting representatives last night approved budget transfers of \$231,000 for repairing the aged Central School roof.

Though it was the largest of nine funding articles, the roof job took barely 10 minutes of the hourlong meeting. Far more time was devoted to a \$4,000 request for the gas inspector's account.

Thirty-seven of 59 current representatives attended the meeting, which was held at Lee High School.

Town meetings normally are held at the Central School gymnasium. However, the gymnasium was closed last September when two custodians discovered extensive damage to the roof decking. The School Committee later declared the situation an emergency in order to qualify for special state building assistance.

With last night's action, school officials are free to hire their chosen contractor, Joseph Francese Inc. of Pittsfield, and to apply for state funds. If Lee wins state approval, it will be reimbursed for 65 percent of the roof cost over five years.

Approved last night were transfers of \$200,000 from the stabilization account and \$31,000 from the overlay reserve account for the roof itself and the engineering, architectural, contingency and construction costs of installing it.

The most controversial request was to set aside \$4,000 for the gas inspector's account. The money will be used to pay the inspector 50 percent of the fees he brings in and will supplement a yearly salary of \$600.

A number of people, most notably representative Richard Burns of West Park Street, objected to the raising of the inspector's salary after a Pittsfield resident had been hired for the job.

Selectmen Chairman William D. Bean responded that his board had advertised locally for the position with no success.

Representatives approved \$21,500 for the medical expenses of a veteran who underwent major cancer surgery. Seventy-five of the cost will be reimbursed by the state. Also approved was \$5,000 for a household hazardous waste collection and \$4,000 for the wire inspector's account.

The representatives passed over an \$8,000 request for an emergency generator and three articles related to the Lee Library.

16.
Both sides

The Berkshire Eagle, Friday, January 22, 1988 — B9

Chairman of Lee Selectmen planning to seek re-election

By William J. Carey

LEE — Selectmen Chairman William D. Bean, who has taken an increasingly visible leadership role in the past several months, this week announced his intentions to run for a second three-year term in May.

Now official, Bean's announcement Wednesday came as no surprise. In November, when disgruntled local builders took up a petition drive to force his resignation, he said he would greet the petitioners with news of his re-election plans. But they never arrived.

A year ago, Bean wasn't so sure. He still dislikes the "politics" of the part-time selectman's job and found that his family time was dwindling with all the meetings and functions that go with it.

But when he turned 42, he said this week, "I took a long hard look at what I wanted to do and what I've accomplished so far."

Among other things, Bean in the past three years has taken part in a long-term water-sharing agreement with Lenox, won approval for a municipal dog pound and proceeded with a state-funded feasibility study of hiring a town manager.

"I believe it's something the town is ready for," he said of a town manager.

Controversial decisions

In that time, there have been a number of controversial decisions, especially since Bean took over as chairman in May. In October, the Selectmen appealed a decision of the Zoning Board of Appeals to allow construction of a Super 8 motel on Housatonic Street, thereby sending the issue to Superior Court.

And in November, the board in one night voted to impose a building moratorium and to fire 18-year veteran Building Inspector Edward M. "Buddy" Briggs. The moratorium was intended to relieve pressure on the town's sewer plant, which is nearing capacity. Briggs was reprimanded for disobeying an order to withhold permits at The Village at October Mountain, an East Street condominium development.



William J. Carey
William D. Bean

It was this one-two combination that led builders to call for Bean's resignation. Briggs was outspoken in his own defense, saying Bean had gotten "a little power-struck" in his role as chairman.

This week, the Selectmen clamped down further on October Mountain, enforcing a 1985 limit on the total number of buildings and ordering a review of a large drainage retention pond. Bean read his ver-

dict from a prepared statement that was adopted intact. Selectmen Christopher A. Salinetti and Diane P. Roosa were less formal, saying they largely agreed with his findings. (Related story, Page B10.)

As part of his response, October Mountain attorney Gerald A. Denmark said Bean should excuse himself from all further dealings because of his "particular prejudice" and "bad faith" toward developers Philip M. Manger and Robert H. Garrity.

Bean remains steadfast in his resolve to enforce the town's conditions.

"I think it was the right thing to do," he said. "I'm not a politician. I did what I did with October Mountain because I felt it was necessary for safety reasons."

Born and raised in Pennsylvania, Bean served four years in the Navy, including 18 months in Vietnam. He came to Lee in 1970 and worked for a time at Kaufman Brothers Inc., a toy wholesaler. In 1973, he took a job with the Clark-Aiken Co., a manufacturer of papermaking machines now known as Clark-Aiken-Matik, where he is employed as a roll balancer.

Bean is a member of the County Advisory Board and the county's Clean Lakes Advisory Committee. He lives on Pine Street with his wife, the former Sheila Bianco, and daughter, Tammy.



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Tuesday, January 26, 1988

Mead Corp. announces management reorganization

By Ellen G. Lahr

LEE — Mead Corp.'s Specialty Paper Division is nearing completion of a \$2.5 million project to increase production capacity and has announced a management reorganization.

The reorganization, which involves the creation of four new positions, is intended to "bring all production-related functions together" within the management structure and to focus attention on quality, according to John Genzabella, vice president of operations.

The \$2.5 million capital improvement project included the rebuilding of a winder on the company's No. 1 paper machine at the Willow Mill. The rebuilt winder will provide more uniform quality in the cut rolls of paper shipped to Mead's customers and will improve operator safety by means of a sophisticated hydraulic guarding system, Genzabella said.

Other improvements include replacement of the wet press on the No. 2 machine at the Willow Mill, installation of a suction box system

to draw water out of paper produced by the No. 3 machine at the Laurel Mill, and construction of a new air filtration system in the Willow Mill's color room, where pigments are prepared.

The specialty paper division, headquartered in the picturesque, red brick Hurlbut Mill on Route 102 in South Lee, manufactures over 1,200 types of paper for use in decorative laminates. The paper is what makes the laminates — which are manufactured by Formica, Wilsonart and other companies — look like wood, marble or other materials.

David L. Klausmeyer, president of the division, said in a prepared statement that the improvements were undertaken because "the division anticipates increased demand for a number of current products in 1988" and also plans to introduce some new products.

Klausmeyer noted that the \$2.5 million expenditure in 1987 followed a \$2 million project to improve cost-efficiency and product quality during 1986.

"The investments we made in

1986 are paying tangible dividends," he said. "We have seen the kinds of changes that make a real difference in product quality."

Genzabella, vice president of operations, announced the management changes, which include the creation of "plant manager" positions at both Laurel and Willow Mills.

Alan L. Boska of 116 Clydesdale Road, Pittsfield, was named to the newly created position of Laurel Mill manager, and Dennis W. Hankey of Root Lane, Sheffield, became Willow Mill manager.

In addition, Donald Moffatt of Silver Street was appointed to the new position of manager of manufacturing services for both plants. Moffatt was formerly production manager for the division.

Steve Sotendahl of 19 Clifford St., Pittsfield, was promoted to the new position of manager of process and product control. He previously was a technical assistant at the Laurel Mill.

Other employees who received promotions were:

— Cathy DeFoe of McNerney Road, Becket, who was named Willow Mill superintendent. She was previously a technical assistant at Willow Mill, where she has worked since 1980.

— LeRoy G. Palmer Jr. of McDarby Road, Tyringham, who became maintenance supervisor at the Laurel Mill. He had been maintenance supervisor at the former Morart printing operation.

— Donald Zukowski of 19 Martin Ave., Lee, who was appointed as process control engineer. He was previously a process control and product development technician.



NEW SUPERINTENDENT of Mead Corp.'s Willow Mill, Cathy DeFoe, sits atop the mill's No. 2 paper machine, which was recently upgraded as part of a \$2.5-million project at Mead's facilities in South Lee.

Lee petition supports ban on building

LEE — If a recent petition is any indication, residents wholeheartedly support the town's 3-month-old building moratorium.

The petition, circulated by town meeting representatives Charlotte P. Davis of 9 Navin Ave. and John T. Kelly of 43 Laurel St., proposed to continue the moratorium "for at least one year." It was turned over to the Selectmen last week with 503 signatures.

According to Davis, only about 2 percent of those who were approached refused to sign their names.

"It was truly one of the easiest petitions I've ever been involved with because everyone wanted to sign it," she said.

The Selectmen imposed the moratorium Nov. 16 to relieve pressure on the town's sewer plant, which is nearing capacity. It bans all new developments or subdivisions producing more than 2,000 gallons of sewage a day. The average three-bedroom home produces about 330 gallons of sewage a day.

The board has said it will reconsider the moratorium when a \$25,000 sewer expansion study is completed this spring.

Though the Selectmen took no action on the petition, Davis said it succeeded in alerting the board to the public sentiment. She said residents in general oppose large developments.

"They don't want this town to be a city," she said. "They don't want these developers taking up all the water and sewage [capacity] and then leaving."

Lee group wins grant to plan after-school care

LEE — The Lee Youth Association has received a \$5,000 grant from the state Office for Children to plan a program of after-school care for kindergartners.

The association is one of 11 organizations to be awarded grants totaling \$50,000 for opening or expanding after-school care programs for schoolchildren.

Commissioner Mary Kay Leonard announced the grants last week. Association director David Canterbury said, "We know there's a need."

That need was indicated by a needs assessment conducted by the school department and by calls the association has received from parents, Canterbury said. He said he

expects the program to start with about 25 youngsters at the beginning of the next school year in September.

"This is geared specifically for kindergarten parents who work full time," he said.

The proposed program for kindergartners fits in well with other programs run by the association, Canterbury said.

These include an early morning wake-up program for youngsters in Grade 3 and younger whose parents must be at work before school starts in the morning.

Canterbury said he hopes the program will eventually expand to include the morning, for youngsters who attend kindergarten in the afternoon, rather than the morning.

Berkshire Eagle, Sun Feb 7, 1988

Berkshire Eagle, Tue Feb 2, 1988

Lee to form affordable housing board

By William J. Carey

LEE — The Selectmen agreed last night to form an affordable housing committee after hearing enthusiastic endorsements from state Rep. Christopher J. Hodgkins, D-Lee, and his aide, Bruce Garlow.

The committee, drawing its members from all sectors of the community, will work with the Massachusetts Housing Finance Agency and state Executive Office of Communities and Development to establish low cost rental and owner-occupied housing for persons unable to find such accommodations. Those persons include the elderly, first-home buyers and others, Hodgkins said.

The committee will designate building sites, advertise for developers and organize tenants and buyers while the state will arrange low-interest mortgages and construction financing. Similar committees have been formed in Lenox and Great Barrington.

One property owner, Sanford Bookless of

Pittsfield, has already expressed an interest in working with the committee to renovate several apartments he owns above Johansson's 5 & 10 store on Main Street. Hodgkins said a number of other potential sites in town are available.

The town's building moratorium, he said, can be tailored to allow for such housing without being discriminatory. The Selectmen imposed the moratorium in November to reduce pressure on the town's sewer plant, which is nearing capacity. The ban may be lifted this spring when a sewer expansion study is completed.

Garlow said participating in the affordable housing program will enhance the town's chances of resolving the sewer issue and others with state and federal funding.

As proposed, the committee will have a representative from all town boards, a banker, a Realtor and others. An organizational meeting for those interested in serving on the board will be held Feb. 25 at 4 p.m. at the Airolti Building, and will hold regular meetings on the last

Thursday of each month.

In other business, the Selectmen agreed to have the Police Department take into custody a reddish-brown Doberman pinscher owned by Paulson and Sharon Davis of 15 Navin Ave. The board has received several complaints from neighbors, some who charged they were bitten by the animal. One said the dog had "definite signs of being vicious."

The dog will be held at the Valley Veterinary Service at the owners' expense until the problem is resolved, the board said.

Also, the board received a petition signed by 83 residents asking that \$40,000 be appropriated to construct a sidewalk on East Street from East Center Street to Reservoir Road.

And, Building Inspector Robert W. Lester has advised Vector Management Corp., owners of the old South Lee post office on Route 102, that the building is unsafe and should be razed. Lester's order was stated in a letter received by the Selectmen.

community in helping to develop successful programs to combat drug and alcohol abuse among students.

This grant represents the first year of a three year funding cycle under the program. The Governor's Alliance Against Drugs is responsible for reviewing grant applications and distributing funds to all Massachusetts communities.

The Governor's Alliance was initiated by Gov. Dukakis in 1984 with the goal of achieving drug free schools by 1990. The Alliance program calls for:

- Drug and alcohol education to begin as early as kindergarten and continue through high school;
- A written memorandum of understanding between school superintendents and local police chiefs on how to handle students caught using or selling drugs on school campuses;

Lee adopts smoking rules tougher than those of state

By William J. Carey

LEE — With little fanfare and no opposition, the Board of Health last night adopted restaurant smoking regulations that go beyond those already mandated by a new state law.

The board's regulations compel all restaurants serving more than 35 people to set aside at least a quarter of their seating capacities for non-smokers. The state law, which takes effect April 13, requires that restaurants seating more than 75 people set aside non-smoking areas of at least 200 square feet.

The law does not preclude local boards of health from exceeding its standards.

At a hearing in November, several restaurant owners said Lee's regulations would be bad for business and difficult to enforce. How-

ever, last night's hearing was attended by only five people, including Edward L. Sweda Jr. of the Boston-based Group Against Smoking Pollution, Brenda Johnson of the American Lung Association and Raymond Warner of Williamstown, who pushed for similar restrictions there.

"Practically everyone who was there was supportive," said board member Lester Clarke. "It was like preaching to the already converted."

Sweda, an attorney and lobbyist, said his group is encouraging other communities to go beyond the state standard. He said Lee is the 53rd town to adopt local smoking regulations, many of which are stricter than the state's.

"We are delighted with their action," he said after last night's hearing.

Berkshire Courier

Thurs. Feb. 11, 1988

Lee

Town Forming Affordable Housing Committee

By Bonnie Oloff

LEE — Rep. Christopher J. Hodgkins (D-Lee) and his aide Bruce Garlow appeared before the Lee Selectmen on Monday night to urge them to form an affordable housing committee to work with the Massachusetts Housing Finance Agency and state Executive Office of Communities and Development to build affordable rental and ownership units for the citizens of Lee.

The committee would be composed of a Selectman and representatives of the Planning Board, Conservation Commission, a banker, a realtor and anyone who is affected by the need for affordable housing.

The committee would devise a Request For Proposal (RFP). The request would spell out what the town wants from a developer. The purpose

would be for Lee to go to the developer before the developer took the options away from the town.

The town would work with a developer to help cut costs for land, water, sewer and roads. This might mean "stretching" zoning laws.

Mortgages for first time home buyers would be made available at below market cost and with no down payment.

Because of the high population in Lee of people over 65, Rep. Hodgkins said he feels it is very important to have affordable and accessible rental housing for the elderly.

Sanford Bookless, who owns the building that houses Johansson's 5 & 10 store on Main Street, said he is interested in working with the town to create affordable housing for the elderly.

The committee will hold its next meeting at 4 on Feb. 25 at the Airolti Building.

Lee Public Schools To Receive Drug And Alcohol Education Grant

LEE — Gov. Michael Dukakis has announced that Lee Public Schools will be awarded a \$3,029 grant from the Governor's Alliance Against Drugs to expand drug and alcohol education programs as part of the Drug Free Schools Act.

Tom Cullen, executive director of the Governor's Alliance, praised school officials for their plans to use the grant money. Mr. Cullen said that the Governor's Alliance Against Drugs looks forward to working with the

School discipline codes that include specific penalties for drug or alcohol use or sales on school campuses;

— Local community treatment programs to which youngsters with serious drug and alcohol problems can be referred and treated.

— Peer and parent programs.

All Massachusetts communities are eligible to apply for funding through their school superintendent.

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Berkshire Eagle, February 12, 1988

'89 budget requests pay hikes for Selectmen, town departments

By William J. Carey

LEE — If major departments have their way, the town will see pay hikes of \$1,000 for each of the three selectmen, a new police officer and a multipurpose secretary.

The spending items are contained in fiscal 1989 budget requests turned in recently by all town departments. The budgets, which have not been approved by the Finance Committee, show increases ranging from 5 to 25 percent for major departments.

Of note for smaller departments, the long-neglected Sandy Beach Committee is seeking a 233 percent increase to revamp the town beach at Laurel Lake.

The biggest chunk of the \$7 million town pie — the \$3.6 million proposed school budget — represents a 5 percent increase over last year's appropriation. However, the budget does not contain salary increases and must be amended once negotiations with teachers and other school employees are completed.

Other preliminary budgets show increases of 9 percent for the Department of Public Works, 11 percent for the Fire Department, 12 percent for the library, 15 percent

for the police and Tri-Town Health Department, and 25 percent for the Selectmen.

If their budget wins approval, the three part-time Selectmen would be raised from \$1,500 each to \$2,500. Their secretary would get a 6 percent increase from \$7,654 to \$8,112.

Selectmen Chairman William D. Bean said his board put in for the raises to bring Lee closer to other towns and to make up for last year's rejection of \$500 raises. "We feel we're worth it," he said.

Milton J. Gordon, a member of the Finance Committee, said his board "didn't agree" with the numbers in the Selectmen's budget. Still wading through the paper work, the finance board will make its final recommendations by Feb. 22.

Last year, a \$12,000 personnel study recommended wage hikes of 1 to 23 percent for non-union town employees. However, Gordon said that study cannot be implemented until a personnel committee and some method of evaluation is formed. In the meantime, the finance board has recommended a 5 percent average salary cap for all departments.

The Police Department is seeking \$20,446 to add a ninth officer. Police Chief Edward J. Finnegan declined to comment on the position, citing security considerations.

The Sandy Beach Committee is seeking a budget of \$19,412, up \$13,592 from last year's appropriation. More than a third of the budget would go toward upgrading the beach road and parking lot, disposing of rusted docks, ladders and diving boards, removing brush and purchasing a new boat and medical kit. The remainder would pay for a head lifeguard, two assistants and a maintenance man, weed and garbage removal, a new telephone, portable toilets, sand and

equipment.

In defense of the budget, committee member Deidre Consolati noted that the 1974 Sandy Beach appropriation was greater than last year's.

"Let this serve as a measure of our neglect of this beautiful resource," she said of the lake. "Every part of the beach is in need of restoration."

Berkshire Eagle, Sat. Feb. 20, 1988

Lee developer challenges Selectmen

By William J. Carey

LEE — As expected, The Village at October Mountain is challenging a revision of its special permit that places four buildings in jeopardy.

In a complaint filed last week in Berkshire Superior Court, the village developers charge that a Jan. 20 vote of the Selectmen to modify their special permit "is null and void and of no effect whatsoever."

The complaint was prepared by attorneys Andrew M. Hochberg and Gerald A. Denmark of Pittsfield.

The Village at October Mountain is a 104-unit condominium village being developed off East Street by Philip M. Manger and Robert H. Garrity. The developers obtained a special permit to build the majority of the units in March of 1985, but their relations with the town have been troubled ever since.

The latest confrontation began when the Se-

lectmen ordered the town's building inspector to cease approving condominiums for occupancy because of alleged violations of the special permit. Certificates of occupancy are needed to close a condominium sale, and without the ability to sell new units October Mountain laid off its work force.

The issue came to a head when the Selectmen scheduled a Jan. 13 public hearing to "modify or rescind" the special permit. The hearing was continued to Jan. 20, when a decision to modify the permit was rendered.

In taking that action, the Selectmen argued that only 22 buildings are allowed at the village: 16 by the 1985 permit and six by earlier permits in the 1970s. While the earlier permits allowed for a total of 10 buildings, they have since expired.

The village now has 26 buildings, meaning four are of dubious legal standing.

Since the board voted to modify the permit, town officials have anxiously awaited a response from October Mountain. That response is contained in the Feb. 12 complaint, which asks the court to nullify the board's action.

In general, the complaint reiterates the arguments made by Hochberg and Denmark in January — that the Selectmen failed to schedule the public hearing in an open meeting, were deficient in notifying all interested parties, failed to present evidence to the developers in advance, and refused to hear new evidence before rendering a decision.

Furthermore, it contends that the board, "has no authority to modify [the] special permit on its own initiative," especially since October Mountain is nearly completed and was built in accordance with the special permit. The board's action to modify the permit "was taken in bad faith and with malice," it states.

Berkshire Eagle, Feb 20, 88

17 seek post of Lee supt.

LEE — Seventeen persons have expressed an interest in replacing Superintendent of Schools Clarence C. Truesdell, who resigned last month. Judith L. Olds, chairman of the School Committee, said resumes have arrived from a number of local educators and other candidates as far away as Maine and New Hampshire. The deadline for applications is March 15.

"I looked at a few real fast and they looked highly qualified," said Olds, who declined to reveal any names. "I think we have a lot of good choices." Truesdell became top administrator of School Superintendency Union 29, representing Lee, Otis and Tyringham, in August of 1985. His three-year contract expires this year.

When the contract came up for review in January, the nine-member board representing the three towns voted not to renew it. Members from Lee and Tyringham, who had criticized Truesdell's leadership abilities, voted in the majority. Members from Otis were opposed.

The board later rescinded its vote to allow Truesdell to resign from the \$50,880-a-year post. Had the contract been renewed, he would have been eligible in the next year for tenure. Olds said the three towns have appointed two members each to serve on a joint search committee for a new superintendent. The committee will hold its first meeting March 24 to review the applications. It has tentatively set April 28 as the date to present a final slate of candidates to the full board. Based on that timetable, final interviews will begin May 14. Truesdell, who holds a doctorate in education from Harvard, has been granted a temporary leave of absence to search for a new job.

Lee

Lee Gleanings

By Bonnie Oloff

The Greater Lee Chamber of Commerce has formed a fund raising committee whose main purpose is to benefit the Chamber by promoting its members and the community at large. The committee will be meeting on Feb. 22 at 7 p.m. at the Chamber office, 17 Main St., lower level (Zabian building) to work on its 1988 plans. All those interested are welcome to attend and join the committee.

On Feb. 24, the Democratic Town Committee will meet at the Lee Library at 7 p.m. to elect officers and plan the town caucus. Anyone interested in running for town offices with a Democratic endorsement should attend this meeting. The group will meet on Feb. 27 at 2 p.m. at the Senior Center to elect delegates and alternates to the state convention. Those who wish to serve must be registered Democrats as of Dec. 31, 1987, and must be present at the meeting.

Family members of Kevin and Anne Roosa are holding a fundraiser for them at Greenock Country Club on Feb. 20 at 7 p.m.

Mr. and Mrs. Roosa's business in Lee, Nonis Pizza and Sandwich shop, was destroyed when the building, owned by Ruth Slaminsky, was burned to the ground in early December.

Tickets are \$5 and may be bought at the door or at the following merchants: Lee Men's Club, Lee Liquors, Professional Barbers and Upstairs Basement.

Businesses in Lee are donating merchandise for a raffle.

10 Years Ago-Feb. 9, 1978

Storm Larry, a near blizzard, dumped 15 inches of snow on the area.

Veteran Great Barrington Selectman Paul J. Gibbons announced that he would not seek re-election.

Ricky Bassett of new Marlborough took both first prizes at the Pack 51 Pinewood Derby.

Tip Of Postal Hat To Chris Hodgkins

LEE — The U.S. Postal Service recognized the service of state Rep. Christopher Hodgkins, to his constituents and to post offices in South Berkshire, in a brief ceremony at the Lee post office Feb. 11.

Mr. Hodgkins was presented with a specially mounted pane of the recently issued Massachusetts commemorative stamp in recognition of his continuing involvement with and interest in the postal service in his district.

Making the presentation were postmasters Andrew Anthony of Stockbridge, William Matthews of Lee, Peter Brown of Great Barrington and Joan Knysh, associate office coordinator of Springfield.

Reports For Duty

LEE — Marine Lance Cpl. Andrew J. Hughes, son of John and Rosemary Hughes of Summer Street, recently reported for duty with 2nd Force Service Support Group, Camp Lejeune, N.C.

A 1985 graduate of Lee High School, he joined the Marine Corps in July 1987.



Daniel and Robin Soules own Lakeside Carpets and Shaker Furniture, Carpets

Shaker Furniture, Carpets

By Bonnie Oloff

LEE — Daniel and Robin Soules have owned and operated Lakeside Carpets and Shaker Accents on Route 20, overlooking Laurel Lake, since 1986.

Mr. Soules reproduces Shaker furniture, without a kit. While he is self-taught, his family has always been involved in carpentry. His grandfather, who is now 85, ran a sawmill until eight years ago. And he is still building furniture. Daniel's uncles deal in antiques. And his dad has a carpentry shop

in his home — where Daniel got his start.

Daniel Soules grew up in Lee and started in the business of restoring, repairing and selling antiques in his father's basement while in his early 20s.

In 1982, Daniel and Robin Soules moved to San Diego, Calif., but returned to Lee in 1983. Soon after their return, they visited the Hancock Shaker Village. Coincidentally, one week after this visit, Daniel saw an ad for employment as a furniture finisher at the Village.

After two years, Daniel was



Postmasters Andrew Anthony and William Matthews, left, and Joan Knysh and Peter

Brown, right, honored Rep. Christopher Hodgkins at a ceremony in Lee last week.

Lee Gleanings

By Bonnie Oloff

The Lee Fire Company is holding its 56th Annual Fireman's Ball on March 19th at Oak n' Spruce. Dinner is from 7 to 9 p.m. and dancing from 9 to 1 a.m. Dinner includes either prime rib, stuffed shrimp or veal cordon blue. Tickets, which are \$20 per person, may be purchased from Paul Giarolo, Dick Tart, Cliff Briggs or Pete Digrigoli.

Jeanie and Ted Ptak won the Greater Lee Chamber of Commerce raffle. The prize, a trip to Freeport, the Bahamas, was purchased by the Chamber through Town n' Country Travel. Mr. Ptak, who owns the Pleasant Street Market in Housatonic, does not know when he and his wife will be taking the trip.

The Lee Visiting Nurse Association will hold its biennial health fair on April 9 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Lee Central School. Chairmen for the event are Anne Mack, Highfield Drive, Lee, and Donna Trask, Theresa Terrace. The fair is free of charge to residents of all towns served by the agency, and includes exhibits, booths, demonstrations and tests.

Eileen E. Biasin has been appointed assistant cashier of the Lee National Bank. Mrs. Biasin has been in banking since 1954 and joined Lee National Bank in 1963. She was appointed manager of the Main Street office in March 1972. She lives with her husband and son on Marble Street.

Anyone with Lee news for the paper may mail it to The Berkshire Courier at P.O. Box 150, Great Barrington 01230 or phone Bonnie Oloff at 637-0276. Ms. Oloff is also handling advertising sales for the newspaper in Lee.

17 Seek School Post

LEE — There are 17 applicants for the position of school superintendent here.

The deadline for applications is March 15. Clarence C. Truesdell resigned last month, according to a report in The Berkshire Eagle, as superintendent of the superintendency union which serves Lee, Otis and Tyringham. He is receiving \$50,880 a year.

Lee



Marie Tyer, right, manager of Cork 'n' Hearth in Lee, sets one up for frequent bar patron Loretta Amaretta, left.

This Barfly Doesn't Talk Back

By Bonnie Oloff

LEE — Loretta Amaretta, long-time bar patron at Cork n' Hearth, has finally decided to settle down and is looking for a mate. Loretta has spent seven nights a week for the last year occupying different bar stools, trying to find someone. Loretta would also like to dine at the restaurant and try their continental cuisine, but she will not dine alone.

Marie Tyer, manager of Cork n' Hearth, spends a great deal of her time dressing Loretta in her own clothing. But nothing

either Marie or Loretta do seem to help attract a man.

And now to be serious. For those who have not been to Cork n' Hearth lately, Loretta Amaretta is a life-like mannequin who, indeed, does spend her time on a bar stool at the restaurant.

She is so life-like that Ms. Tyer said people are constantly trying to meet the "gorgeous blonde."

And Ms. Tyer is looking for a male partner for Loretta. So if anyone has a male mannequin — give Marie a call at 243-0535.

Town May Take Fire Chief's Post Out Of Civil Service

By Bonnie Oloff

LEE — At the annual town meeting in May, local representatives will vote on whether or not to remove the position of fire chief from Civil Service.

Last September, the town of Lee petitioned the state for legislation to remove Civil Service as a prerequisite for fire chief since several local

candidates had been unable to pass the once-a-year state examination.

The legislation passed and was signed by the governor in December.

At Monday's Selectmen's meeting, discussions centered around the criteria to be used to select the new fire chief. The Selectmen said the areas of importance should be: the results of a test geared to a small-town fire department, past Civil Service grades, length of service and strong leadership qualities.

The Selectmen agreed to invite Mort T. Cavanaugh, the Great Barrington fire chief, to their next meeting to offer advice on this procedure.

The Selectmen assured everyone that the process used in selecting a new fire chief will be void of any politics.

In other business, Sharon Davis of 15 Navin Ave. appeared before the board. Her doberman pinscher had been confiscated by the town on Feb. 10 after numerous complaints by neighbors about both her dogs. Ms. Davis agreed to post a bond of \$200 to obtain the release of the dog. If either dog is found loose, they will be destroyed, the board said.

Building Inspector Robert W. Lester approved the work completed in the Central School gymnasium. The gym, which was closed when the roof began to fall, was expected to open this week.

The board gave Deirdre Consolati, chairman of the town's Sandy Beach Committee, permission to split her proposed fiscal 1989 budget into two articles: \$6,000 for renovations to the town beach and \$13,412 for upkeep.

Pesticide Workshops Being Held In Lee

LEE — The Cooperative Extension and Berkshire County Farm Bureau will hold a series of workshops at the Masonic Hall (next to the State Police barracks) here.

On March 28, from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m., the topic will be "Basic Safety and Protective Clothing, Reading Labels and Calibration." On April 7, same hours, "Pesticide Ground-water Contamination." And April 12, same hours, "Health Effects of Pesticides."

Two On Honors List

LEE — Northeastern University has announced that Douglas R. Parker of West Road and Kiersten M. Viner of East Street, both students at the College of Engineering, have been named to the dean's list for the fall quarter.

Eagle - Fri Feb. 28, 1988 Driscoll to challenge Bean for Lee selectman's seat

LEE — Former Selectman Charles J. Driscoll confirmed widespread rumors this week by announcing his intentions to challenge incumbent Selectman William D. Bean for another three-year term.

Driscoll, 55, was upset last May by political newcomer Diane P. Roosa, who campaigned aggressively to win 62 percent of the votes cast. After that defeat, Driscoll distanced himself from town politics.

But his return to the political arena had been rumored for several months, and Wednesday night, at a meeting of the Democratic town committee, he made it official.

"I've been sitting back for a year kind of watching, and people have been asking me about it," he said last night. "So I'm going back in it."

Of the surprise loss to Roosa, the town's second woman selectman, he said, "The basic problem I had was, I was so busy trying to be a good selectman, I didn't do any campaigning. I felt I was doing a good job and my credentials would carry me. I guess not."

He'll have his work cut out for him against 42-year-old Bean, who in the past year has built a solid reputation as chairman of the board. Since both are Democrats, the race will be decided April 14 at the party caucus.

Driscoll said he plans to run a positive campaign emphasizing his experience in town government.

As chairman of the Democratic Town Committee, Driscoll said he knows of no other candidates at this time. However, candidates who want Democratic backing have until March 31 to file papers. The Republican Party, which was inactive last year, has made no announcements.

Driscoll recently retired after 30 years at the Kimberly-Clark Corp., where he was supervisor of inventory and shipping. He is a founding member of the Berkshire County Regional Planning Commission and served on the town's Finance Committee, Planning Board and Housing Authority. He served as a selectman between 1984 and 1987.

Driscoll and his wife, Marjorie, live on South Prospect Street. They have four children.

Berkshire Eagle, Feb. 23, 1988

Lee begins process of hiring fire chief

By William J. Carey

LEE — Special state legislation exempting the position of fire chief from Civil Service has been approved, and plans are underway to hire a new chief for the town's volunteer department.

Meeting with the Selectmen last night, members of a fire chief study committee agreed to help devise a testing process for the job and to seek applicants. One potential candidate, former town firefighter Gerald F. DeFreest of High Street, was urged by the Selectmen to apply.

The fire department has been administered by an acting chief, Lazzaro J. "Digger" Buffis, since the death of former Chief Ottavio B. Giarolo in 1984. Since then, several local candidates have tried and failed to pass the once-a-year state Civil Service examination.

Expert advice

Town meeting representatives in September voted to petition the state for legislation to remove Civil Service as a prerequisite. Though that legislation passed and was signed by the governor in December, town bylaws require that local representatives have the final say. They'll get their chance in May at the annual town meeting.

Last night, the Selectmen agreed to invite Great Barrington Fire Chief Mort T. Cavanaugh to next week's meeting for advice on devising a new testing process. Selectman Christopher A. Salinetti said four areas of importance will be a candidate's local test results, past Civil Service grades, leadership qualities and length of service.

DeFreest was present for the meeting and came highly recommended by the study committee. He said he passed the Civil Service

exam in 1968 but lost the chief's job to Giarolo, who had appealed his test results. During this time, he said, the state Civil Service Commission was involved in a testing scandal and several former applicants who felt cheated have filed a class-action suit.

Although he expressed an interest in the part-time job, DeFreest, 61, warned that he would be forced to retire at 65. The Selectmen, noting his 35 years of previous service, urged him to apply anyway.

Chairman William D. Bean assured him that, "This board doesn't play politics. We just want to pick the best one we can."

Other actions

In other business, Deirdre Consolati, chairman of the town's Sandy Beach Committee, gained approval from the board to split her proposed fiscal 1989 budget into two articles: \$6,000 for renovations to the town beach and \$13,412 for upkeep.

The combined articles constitute a 233 percent increase over last year's appropriation. Consolati has argued that funding has actually decreased since the mid-1970s.

Also, the board met with Sharon Davis of 15 Navin Ave. and a group of neighbors who have complained about two dogs owned by the Davis family. One, a Doberman pinscher, was confiscated by the town Feb. 10. Davis has agreed to post a bond of \$200 ensuring that both dogs will remain tied. If they are found loose, they will be destroyed.

Also, Building Inspector Robert W. Lester, in a Feb. 19 letter to the board, said he inspected the Central School gymnasium and "found everything completed in a first-class workmanlike manner." The gym, closed when its roof was found to be deteriorating, is expected to reopen for classes today.

Berkshire Eagle - Wed. March 2, 1988 October Mt. condos could change hands

By William J. Carey
Berkshire Eagle Staff

LEE — The remaining, unsold condominiums at The Village at October Mountain may be sold in the near future to a three-member group represented by Michael R. Sanginetti of Lanesboro.

"We're interested but we can't make any comment at this point," Sanginetti said yesterday. "We're still negotiating."

Rumors of the impending sale have cropped up in the past few weeks, the result of an ongoing confrontation between October Mountain and the town. On Jan. 20, the Selectmen voted to revise the development's special permit because of alleged overbuilding and other violations. The action placed four of 26 buildings at the village in legal jeopardy.

In addition, the town for several months has refused to grant occupancy permits for completed condominiums. The permits are needed to close a condominium sale, and without the ability to sell new units, October Mountain laid off 47 workers in mid-January, leaving only a staff of four.

Robert H. Garrity, who is developing October Mountain with Philip M. Manger, declined yesterday to comment on the possibility of a sale. Their attorney, Gerald A. Denmark of Pittsfield, also declined to comment, saying only, "Right now, the plans are indefinite."

Continuing controversy

Located on a 43-acre tract off East Street, the development has been a source of continuing controversy since Manger and Garrity broke ground in 1985. Several lawsuits dealing with a variety of issues have been initiated by the developers against the town, the condo-

minum owners against the developers, and vice versa.

The Selectmen, in explaining their vote of Jan. 20, said that only 22 buildings are allowed at the village: 16 by the 1965 special permit and six by earlier permits from the 1970s. While the earlier permits allowed for a total of 10 buildings, they have since expired.

Three weeks later, October Mountain filed suit in Berkshire Superior Court, charging the board's action to revise the special permit "is null and void and of no effect whatsoever." That suit is still pending.

If the village does change hands, people who have already bought condominiums will maintain control of their own units and the bulk of shared facilities, according to Pittsfield attorney Edward M. Reilly, who represents a group of residents. The new owner, he said, would be entitled to manage the property and to sell the remaining units.

Buildings in contention

Reilly said 88 units in 22 buildings have been sold, meaning only the four buildings in contention remain.

"I've heard rumors that they're going to sell it," he said. "But it wouldn't affect the unit owners."

Sanginetti is a land-use planner and project manager for Westbridge Associates of West Stockbridge. He said he is looking into October Mountain separately with two partners from California.

In addition to The Village at October Mountain, Manger and Garrity are building October Estates, a condominium development on Churchill Street in Pittsfield. They also operate East Coast Panelized Systems Inc., a manufacturer of wall panels on Route 41.

Ariens

Lee

Sandy Beach Committee Makes Budget Pitch

By Bonnie Oloff

LEE — Dee Consolati, chairman of the Sandy Beach Committee, and Christopher Salinetti, a Selectman appearing at the meeting as a concerned citizen, presented their budget for Laurel Lake to the Finance Committee on Feb. 29.

The budget was presented in two parts. The first, for \$13,412.00, was for lifeguard and maintenance salaries, weed removal, portable toilets, sand and emergency phone costs. Also included are monies for fencing to protect against geese, bolts for repair of raft ladder, anchor, chains, locks for dock raft and boat, paint, stain and brushes.

Last year, because of inadequate salaries, the beach had one lifeguard. And because she was not certified as a Red Cross instructor, there was no swimming program for Lee mothers and children.

The second part of the budget is for \$6,000 and covers beautification of the beach area including fixing of the beach house.

The Finance Committee members, although sympathetic in "spirit" with the needs of Laurel Lake and its use in the community, were concerned about the fact that they were being presented with budget increases ranging from 12 to 25 percent by all groups coming before them. And that the committee was concerned about possible tax increases for the town. The committee did not vote on the Sandy Beach budget. The budget was put into the hopper until the Finance Committee looked at all the figures. In all probability it will be up to the town reps at the town meeting in May to decide upon this budget.

Ms. Consolati was born in Lee and remembers that in

the 1950s "you could not find a spot on the beach." The millworkers would use the beach after work. Picnic tables and fireplaces for barbeques were always busy. And the Kiwanis contributed to this effort by taking responsibility for the picnic areas.

In the early 1970s weeds started encroaching. This was caused by fertilizer runoff, septic systems at lakside cottages, runoff from Route 20 and the boat ramps, motor boats and human use in and around the lake. There was also a bacteria scare in the early 1970's that closed Lenox beach for a couple of weeks. Proposition 2½ came along and the budget was affected. Then the beach started to fall into general neglect. And then the vandalism.

Dee continually returns to the fact that the budget for the beach was \$7,000 in 1974 and \$6,000 in 1986. Allowing for inflation, that is a decrease of between \$25,000 to \$30,000 in spending over a 12-year period.

Both Dee and Chris are going to begin a very strong lobbying effort to help get the Sandy Beach budget passed at the town meeting. Dee has already started a petition. And there is more to come.



Donald B. Victor and his daughter Laura Shaffer of Lee are seen getting ready for a recent meeting of the Berkshire Museum Stamp Club, which meets in Pittsfield the second and fourth Tuesday of the month at 7:30 p.m.

Lee Artist Writes For Palette Talk

LEE — Artist Gloria Malcolm Arnold of East Center Street is featured in the latest issue of *Palette Talk*, a publication of M. Grumbacher, manufacturers of artist materials.

Mrs. Arnold's article is entitled "Creating a Mood" and features a step-by-step illustrated guide in which she creates an oil painting of a misty Berkshire dawn.

Mrs. Arnold was born in Covington, Ga., but has been a Berkshire resident for 10 years. In addition to being a member of the Pittsfield, Sheffield and Springfield Art Leagues, she is corresponding secretary of the Berkshire Watercolor Society. She is an elected artist member of the Kent (Conn.) Art Association and the North Shore Art Association in Gloucester.

Mrs. Arnold maintains a studio and gallery at her home and conducts classes in both oil and watercolor media. The award for excellence in oils at the November Pittsfield Art League exhibition is her latest of numerous awards. Her work is in many private and corporate collections. She is represented in this area by the Hand of Man Gallery in Lenox and by the Artisan's Studio in Williamstown as well as by Demeter's Door in Simsbury, Conn.

Lee National Shareholders Meet

LEE — Lee National Bank held its annual stockholders' meeting Feb. 2 and elected nine directors to serve for the coming year. They were John A. Barry Jr., William K. Collins, Frank P. Consolati, Milton J. Gordon, David L. Klausmeyer, W. Merritt McBrien, William J. Napolitano, John W. Plant and Eugene A. Schnell.

Mr. Consolati was re-elected chairman of the board. Mr. Napolitano was elected president and chief executive officer. Joseph Santora Jr. was re-elected vice president in charge of loans. Pamela S. Ganz was re-elected assistant cashier and William D. Murphy administrative assistant. Eileen E. Biasin was appointed assistant cashier and Richard P. Ziter was re-appointed manager of the Otis branch.

Earnings in 1987 were \$527,000, the highest in the bank's history. It compares with \$472,000 in 1986.

Total loans increased by more than 21 percent.

Lee Girls Win Tourney

LEE — The Lee Youth Association 7th and 8th grade girls defeated Pittsfield Catholic Youth Center, 57-46, to win the annual CYC Basketball Tournament on Feb. 21. Kate Cinella and Jennifer Finnegan paced the winners with 20 and 19 points.

Lee defeated Great Barrington, 41-23, on Feb. 13 and the CYC defeated Dalton Youth Center, 36-30, on Feb. 20 to reach the tournament's final round.

Lee's Kate Cinella was named tournament most valuable player.

Members of the winning team included Lisa O'Brien, Sheila Collins, Micele Moran, Dinah Souza, Nancy Hicks, Alison Forfa, Sharon Digrigoli, Alison Scarpa, Sharon Heath, Lisa Shoppe, Cinella and Finnegan.

The team is coached by Tom Biasin.

The Berkshire Eagle, Thursday, March 3, 1988 — B11
Lee school board approves 10-cent hike in lunch cost

LEE — School lunches at the high school and elementary school will be increased by 10 cents to help cover cafeteria costs. The School Committee on Tuesday approved both the lunch increase and a 5-cent hike in the cost of milk. The new prices, which affect Grades 4 through 12, will be instituted March 14.

High School Principal Henry T. Zukowski said the requested price increases stemmed from a cost analysis by Polly Friedrichs of the state Department of Education regional office in North Adams. Friedrichs determined that current prices fail to cover food, labor and maintenance expenses of the two cafeterias.

"It became obvious that the cost of a meal was exceeding our income," Zukowski said. The two cafeterias are self-sustaining operations that do not receive regular funding in the School Department budget. They employ 12 workers, most of whom are part time.

Barbara Soules, secretary to Superintendent of Schools Clarence C. Truesdell, said the monthly oper-

ating costs of the two cafeterias often exceed their incomes. They are reimbursed by the government for free and reduced-price meals to disadvantaged children, she said. Zukowski, who is reporting to the School Committee while the superintendent is on leave, said Friedrichs praised the high level of student participation in the lunch system. On a daily basis, Zukowski said, 77 percent of high school students and 75 percent of elementary school students purchase lunches.

The price hikes will raise lunches for adults from \$1.30 to \$1.40 and for students from 70 cents to 80 cents. Milk will be increased from 15 cents to 20 cents. Lunches will remain at 50 cents for students in Grades 1 through 3.

The last price increase took place in 1981, when student lunches were hiked by 20 cents.

Lee

Nutting Works To Be Auctioned

LEE — Caropreso Gallery will present an auction of the notable Gordon Chamberlin Collection of Wallace Nutting Prints and other works March 25 and 26.

More than a thousand lots will be offered and the extensive collection includes interior (or colonial) prints, exterior prints, floral arrangements, pentype prints and black and white silhouettes done for Mr. Nutting by Ernest John Donnelly, including "Christmas Greetings From Nut-

tingholme."

Gordon A. Chamberlin, an authority on Wallace Nutting, seriously began collecting Nutting prints 35 years ago. Mr. Chamberlin's love of American history and furniture sparked his interest in Wallace Nutting's interior scenes. His appreciation grew to include all of his works and he now especially loves the prints that include animals. He is an enthusiastic member of the Wallace Nutting Collector's Club which began in 1973.

Area Residents Support Test Ban

LEE — Seven area groups are co-sponsoring a test ban vigil, calling for a halt to underground testing of nuclear weapons.

The vigil will take place at Park Square in Pittsfield on March 14 from 4 to 5 p.m.

"We urge people to join us, even if only for a few

minutes," said Pam Gilcrst of Berkshire SANE/FREEZE.

Two residents, Donna Bartell of Monterey and her daughter Morgan, plan to take part in direct actions in Nevada. An estimated 10,000 people may show up for these protests.

Lee Youth Capture Top Spot

LEE — The Lee Youth Center captured the top spot in the all-star basketball league with a 39-26 win over Dalton Youth Center on Feb. 28.

Lee's only league loss this year came at the hands of Great Barrington. The teams now head into tournament play.

Members of the winning team are Lisa O'Brien, Sharon Heath, Sheila Collins, Kate Cinella, Sharon Digrigoli, Nancy Hicks, Jennifer Finnegan, Alison Forfa, Dinah Souza, Lisa Shoppe, Micele Moran and Kelsey Scarpa.

Tom Biasin is coach.

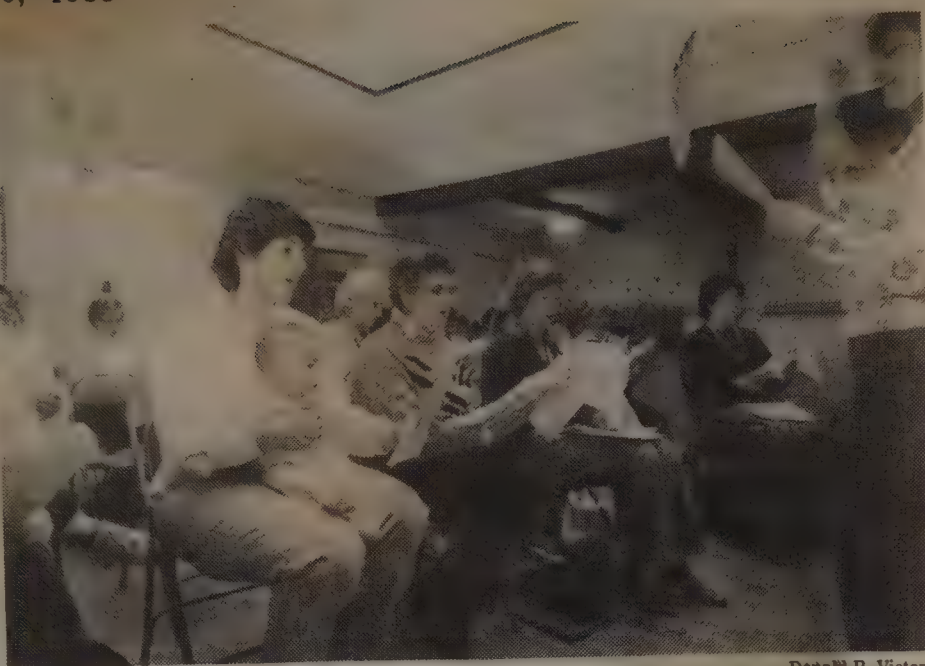
Lunch Price To Rise 10 Cents

LEE — The School Committee last week voted to increase school lunch prices by 10 cents to help cover cafeteria costs. The new prices go into effect March 14.

Ten-Pin Tournament

LEE — Lee Lanes will hold its ninth annual ten pin tap tournament March 26 to benefit the junior bowlers. Squad times are 2 and 7:30 p.m. Cash prizes will be awarded for both men and women. No sanction is required for the fun event.

The entry fee is \$6 and may be sent with desired squad time and phone number to Ed Forfa, Ten Pin Tap Tournament, 11 Maritta Ave., Lee 01238.



Marianne Gamelli and baby Jeffrey Lee of Otis, seated next to Mrs. Gamelli's grandmother Mary Bradbury of Lee, rehearsed

recently with the Sweet Adelines at St. Steven's Church in Pittsfield.

Consultant Urges Hiring Administrator

LEE — Last December, the town engaged David A. Booth, a consultant and political science professor at the University of Massachusetts, to study the town and make recommendations for governmental improvements.

The study, which was made possible by a \$10,000 grant, came about because Lee and other small towns have been faced with the complexities of increased growth and development. This in turn means more involvement and responsibilities for town government.

The town of Lee has an unusual system. There are six districts and nine representatives in each district. Only the representatives, who are elected by residents of their districts, vote at town meetings.

Mr. Booth, who presented his report at the Selectmen's meeting on Monday night, recommended that a full-time town administrator be hired to improve the town government.

Mr. Booth's report outlined four options: To establish a town administrator, executive secretary, full-time administrative assistant or

charter commission.

Mr. Booth believes that these changes would bring about a larger measure of unity of structure to the town's government.

The Selectmen will study the report. Based on their decision of the recommenda-

tions or other options, Mr. Booth will then proceed with the second phase of drafting the bylaws and other specifics of carrying out the plan chosen. The final report would then be compiled and public hearings scheduled.

B8 — The Berkshire Eagle, Monday, March 7, 1988 Lee office-holders seeking re-election

LEE — Most town officials with expiring terms are expected to seek re-election in May.

The only contested office, at this point, is that of selectman. Two familiar figures are running: incumbent William D. Bean and challenger Charles J. Driscoll, a former selectman. Since both are Democrats, the race will be decided April 14 at the party caucus.

Democrats have until March 31 to file nomination papers. The Republican Party, which was inactive last year, has not scheduled a filing deadline or caucus. People who wish to run independently have until April 1 to obtain nomination papers and until April 4 to submit them.

Among other town positions, School Committee Chairman Judith L. Olds, 33, of Hartwood Road confirmed that she will seek another three-year term. Olds, a customer service representative at the Toole Insurance Agency, was appointed to the board in December 1984 and ran

successfully in 1985.

School Committee member Joseph C. Savery of Stockbridge Road has indicated that he, too, will run, although he could not be reached this week. Savery, 61, manager of real estate operations for Northeast Utilities, is a longtime member of the board who came out of retirement in October to fill the position left open by the resignation of Thomas E. Unsworth.

Also seeking re-election is town clerk and treasurer John J. Nagle, 61, of 57 Main St. Nagle was first elected to the dual posts in 1986.

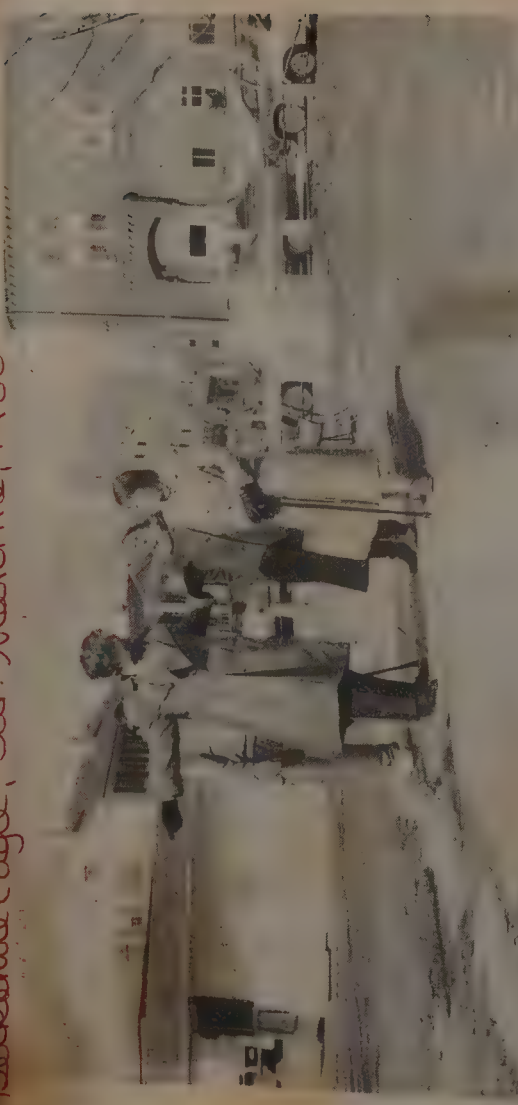
Joseph F. Dupont of Fairview Street will seek five more years on the Planning Board while Franklin Sturges of 4 William Parkway will seek a similar term on the Housing Authority.

Margaret A. Wellspeak of Main Street, South Lee, is running for a third three-year term on the Board of Health. Joseph M. Toole of 134 Orchard St., a nine-year veteran, will run again for town moderator, which is elected each year.

There are two assessors' positions available for two and three years respectively. Incumbent Anne Marie Collins of Davis Street, who is due for the three-year term, reportedly will not seek re-election. Board member John E. Loring of 194 Prospect St. said he will seek Collins' term and vacate the two-year position.

There are also four three-year constable positions and 18 three-year town meeting positions available. In District 3, there is a two-year unexpired town meeting term.

Berkshire Eagle, Sat. March 12, 1988



PLAYING TOUR GUIDE yesterday was Rep. Christopher J. Hodgkins, who walked the town's green with Anne Mackin, center, and Pollyanne Melton of the state's City and Town Commons Program. Selectmen Chairman William D. Bean is partially obscured behind Hodgkins.

Lee to ask for state money to rehabilitate town green

By William J. Carey
Berkshire Eagle Staff

LEE — The town will apply for substantial state funding to rehabilitate the town green at Main and Park streets.

Yesterday, state Rep. Christopher J. Hodgkins, D-Lee, and Selectmen Chairman William D. Bean toured the green with two officials of the state's City and Town Commons Program. Since the application deadline is March 21, they were advised to seek a waiver from the two-week notification period.

Hodgkins said later he would file the application forthwith. A public hearing will follow March 17 at 5 p.m. at the Airoldi Building.

While the town maintains the green, it belongs to the First Congregational Church. Therefore, church approval will be sought to proceed with the application, Hodgkins and Bean said.

\$400,000 project

The rehabilitation is expected to cost about \$400,000 and would involve landscaping the present parking lot between the Town Hall and green, relocating the tourist information booth, planting trees and

creating parallel parking, among other improvements. The new design is contained in a 1981 plan by Robert B. Macintosh, a landscape architect.

Hodgkins said the rehabilitation of the green would complement planned restorations of the First Congregational Church steeple, the Civil War Memorial Town Hall and, possibly, of Main Street under a separate state program. He said he would like to see the green project extended to include marble fencing down Housatonic Street.

Meeting with Pollyanne Melton, acting director of the City and Town Commons Program, and landscape planner Anne Mackin, the legislator made little secret of the town's desire to obtain funding for the project.

"Basically, what we want to do is hit you up for the most money possible to make this a showcase," he said during a brisk, 20-minute tour.

Melton said her office expects to receive 100 applications for the state grants, which are available through a \$10 million appropriation. She said about 30 of the projects will eventually win funding this summer. The maximum grant amount is \$700,000.

The first \$100,000 is delivered with no strings attached, Melton said. Anything more than that requires a 30-percent match by the participating community. However, that figure can be reached by a number of sources, including the value of the land to be rehabilitated, previous

work and in-kind services. Melton, like other state officials who toured the green last summer, was positive about the town's chances of winning a grant.

"From everything you've said so far, you're along the same track we are," she told Hodgkins and Bean. "I don't see any problems working together."

Deep seeks new name for his subdivision

NORTH ADAMS — Michael A. Deep is looking for a new name for his proposed 21-lot subdivision off West Shaft Road.

The definitive plan for the project bears the name Hoosac Tunnel Estates. But, sensitive to Mayor John Barrett III's recent call for North Adams to shed "its tunnel city" image, Deep has decided that won't do.

Deep is inviting area residents to submit their suggestions by March 15. The person who comes up with the winning name will receive a one-night getaway for two people at the Orchards in Williamstown, including dinner and breakfast.

A committee made up of Deep and five others will make the choice.

Entries should be sent to the Mike Deep Insurance Agency, 1 Post Office Square, North Adams, and include the entrant's name, address and phone number.

Eagle Tuesday March 8, 1988

Consultant recommends Lee hire full-time town administrator

By William J. Carey
Berkshire Eagle Staff

LEE — Consultant David A. Booth has recommended to the Selectmen that a full-time town administrator be hired to improve the town's government.

Booth, a political science professor at the University of Massachusetts, made his recommendation in a quarter-inch-thick preliminary report entitled "Town in Transition," which deals with the question of hiring an administrator. The report was discussed last night.

"The ball is now squarely on your side of the net," Booth told the Selectmen. "It's up to you to hit it back to me."

A recurring theme in Lee and other small towns, the concept of a full-time administrator has gained more popularity with the onslaught of developments and the increasing complexities of town government.

In October 1986, Lee was awarded a \$10,000 state grant to study the issue.

The Selectmen hired Booth in December. His preliminary report, which constitutes the first phase of the study, includes a history of the town's government and a preliminary assessment of its shortcomings. The assessment is based in part on interviews with town employees and a questionnaire completed by town meeting representatives.

The reaction of town meeting representatives generated the most discussion last night. Booth said he found a "great deal of satisfaction" with town government and a "legislative-executive tension" between town meeting representatives and the Selectmen.

"There is a key feeling," he said, "that the left hand doesn't know

what the right is doing."

Selectmen Chairman William D. Bean suggested that representatives have failed to take advantage of the board's weekly meetings.

"If they don't show up to find out what's happening in the town," he said, "than we can't do much more."

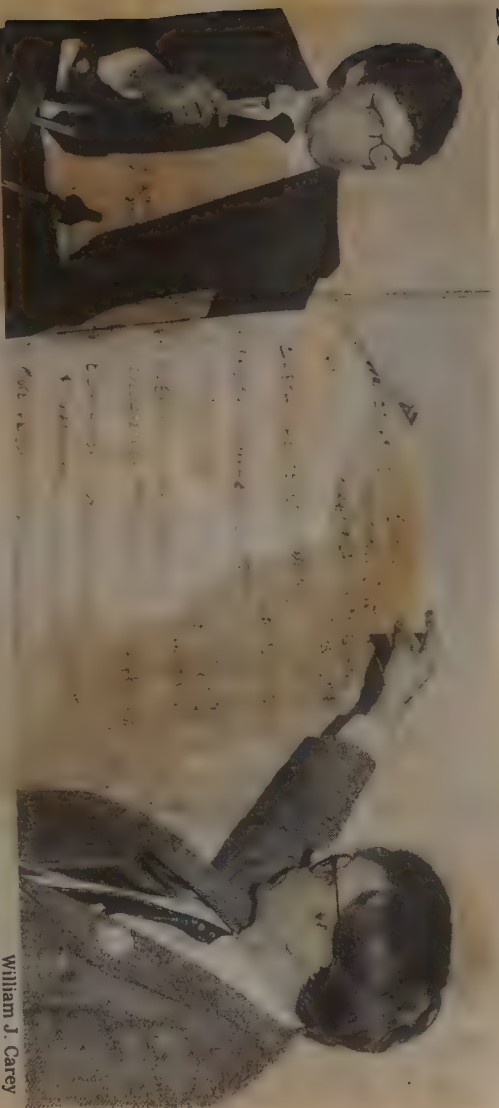
Booth's report outlines four options: to establish a town administrator, executive secretary, full-time administrative assistant or charter commission. The charter commission would conduct an in-depth study of the issue and present a referendum question for approval by the voters.

Booth recommends the first option, which would have to be approved by the town meeting and then the state Legislature. If adopted, he said, the town administrator form of government may entail a future enlargement of

the Board of Selectmen to five members, the elimination of some elected positions and restructuring of the Department of Public Works.

"All these changes would be designed to bring a larger measure of structural unity to the town's government structure," he wrote. "The act would provide the town administrator with standard powers of general administration and supervision over town personnel, as well as other standard powers, for example, purchasing and budget-making."

The Selectmen took the report under advisement. Based on their decision on the four recommended options or any others, Booth said he will proceed with the second phase of drafting the bylaw and other specifics of carrying out the plan chosen. After that phase is completed, a final report will be compiled and public hearings scheduled.



William J. Carey

DISPLAYING IDEAS for the state's future are Sen. Peter C. Webber and Rep. Sherwood Guernsey. About 60 educators, politicians, planners and business people attended the "Blueprint 2000" program at the Black Swan Inn.

Lt. gov.'s 'Blueprint 2000' draws area leaders to Lee

By William J. Carey
Berkshire Eagle Staff

LEE — A cross section of county leaders last night determined that affordable housing, educational support, an improved criminal justice system and retention of the county's manufacturing base are top priorities for the future.

The meeting, organized by the Berkshire County Selectmen's Association to showcase Lt. Gov. Evelyn F. Murphy's "Blueprint 2000" campaign, drew about 60 local educators, politicians, planners and business people for a lively discussion at the Black Swan Inn. By all accounts, the meeting was a success.

"I'm really impressed with the people who are here tonight," said state Rep. Robert Frank Jakubowicz, D-Pittsfield. "If we could get together more often, we could solve some of these problems we're addressing."

'Commanding vision'

Blueprint 2,000, which Murphy has described as the quest for a "commanding vision of the future," aims at defining the future of Massachusetts in several key categories. At the first round of hearings last fall, five major topics of concern for Berkshire County were Proposition 2½, municipal management, waste disposal, regional planning and affordable housing.

Last night, after brief opening remarks, the group was divided into four workshops dealing with the "physical environment," human support, employment and education. Each discussion was moderated by an area legislator in a display of collaboration, as Murphy put it, between the executive and legislative branches of state government.

Using felt markers, aides recorded the resulting ideas on poster-sized sheets.

At the employment workshop, Thomas A. White, president and chief operating officer of Crane & Co. in

Dalton, spoke of retraining and re-educating employees for the future needs of industry.

"The assembly line mentality of manufacturing," he said, "is no longer adequate."

F. Bruce Ferin, business agent for IUE Local 255 in Pittsfield, concentrated on the impact of plant closings in the state and nation.

Owners and managers, he said, "have caused enormous dislocation throughout the United States by shifting their capital resources from one region to another in an unrelenting effort to defeat unionization, depress wages, avoid protective labor legislation and maximize corporate profits without regard to human values."

At the education workshop, Norman Najmy, principal of the Richmond School, called for a "massive, meaningful partnership" linking the home, school, government and industry.

Not surprisingly, the human support workshop — attended by County Sheriff Carmen C. Massimiano and Chief Probation Officer Clifford J. Nitar, among others — turned into a discussion of the criminal justice system.

The group concerned itself with funding and modernizing the system. Before the discussion broke, law student Edward D. Nardi of Lenox threw out a novel solution: cut the financial burden of law enforcement, he said, by decriminalizing certain drugs.

"It's a classic case of the lesser of two evils," said Nardi, who is writing a senior paper on the reform of drug laws.

After an hour, the four workshops regrouped in the main conference room for closing remarks. The statements were interrupted briefly by a false fire alarm blamed on a mechanical malfunction.

"I firmly believe this should be revisited," said state Rep. Sherwood Guernsey, D-Williamstown. "We should spend much more time."

Lee school budget yet to be set

By William J. Carey
Berkshire Eagle Staff

LEE — With the annual town meeting just nine weeks away, the Lee School Committee is busy negotiating salaries with a wide range of school employees.

Salaries, the largest component of the school budget, should be settled by the May 12 meeting, school board members said. In the meantime, the committee has submitted a preliminary budget of \$3,623,193, which represents a 5 percent increase over last year's appropriation. The final budget figure, once negotiations are settled, will likely be higher.

Still negotiating over salaries are administrators, teachers, nurses, secretaries and aides.

Talks with the Lee Education Association, which represents about 100 teachers and nurses at both Lee schools, began Jan. 14. The present three-year contract expires Aug. 31. Sharon Barry, a consultant for the Massachusetts Teachers Association who is advising the union, said the negotiations will be "closed to any press releases until we reach an impasse." However, there is no indication at this point of any problems in the talks, which are confined this year to salaries. Asked whether the school com-

mittee would be able to prepare its budget by May 12, Barry said, "I'm sure they'll have enough information by the time they get there."

Without the custodial, special education and athletic staffs' pay, which are not under negotiation, salaries represent roughly 60 percent of the school budget. The nearest competitor is special education, which represents 12.5 percent of the pie.

Committee Chairman Judith L. Olds said remaining contracts should be easier to settle once an agreement is struck with the union. She said secretaries and aides are represented by associations, rather than the union.

The present budget contains \$173,088 in non-salary hikes. According to an overview provided by the school committee, \$55,306 would be for the acquisition and replacement of equipment, including a new computer for the Central School and computer upgrading in the Lee High School business department.

Another \$54,827 would cover a transportation increase and additional aides for the special education account.

At a cost of \$48,583, the budget proposes two new teaching positions at Central School, the result of a projected jump in enrollment, and a

part-time Latin teacher at the high school. Athletics would be raised by \$14,052 because of the addition of a ski program and other costs.

Other areas that would be increased are transportation, by \$10,270, and maintenance of buildings and grounds, by \$7,017. Offsetting the increases is a reduction of \$16,967 in the special education account.

Berkshire Eagle, Tues. March 15, 1988

Lee

Lee High Students Winn Essay Awards

LEE — Three Lee High School students were among 15 area young people to receive awards March 9 at the Berkshire Museum for their winning essays in the second annual Real Women Creative Writing Contest.

Sarah Johnson, writing about Officer Althea Smith, won first place in the grade 10 division. Jody Chandler Moran, writing about her mother Linda Jo Ludlow Moran, received second prize in grade 11. And Bessie Johnson took honorable

mention in grade 10 with her essay on mother earth. All three winners are taught by Cheryl Nelson.

Laurie Forfa, director of nursing at Hillcrest Hospital, spoke on the development of Women's History Month and Cathryn Addy, president of Berkshire Community College, described her own mother's contributions to society. Linda White of the Calliope Theater Group entertained those attending with a short presentation on Elizabeth Cady Stanton.

Health Code Cited

LEE — The Tri-Town Health Dept. has found violations at Grampy's on Housatonic St. sufficient to close the business for one day. Saying the violations continue, Tri-Town Health has asked the Selectmen to call management in for discussion about this problem. A meeting is being set up for next Monday.

Celebration Plans In Works

LEE — Bruce Kaiden and Steve Raser from the Chamber of Commerce appeared before the Selectmen Monday to present plans for the 10th annual Lee Celebration.

Celebration will be held on Aug. 12 and 13. The chamber will take responsibility for the area from Carr Hardware to the Lee Library. A committee has been formed to work with other businesses to expand the area and to provide activities for Sunday.

Cowens To Speak At LYA Annual Dinner

SOUTH LEE — Former Boston Celtic David Cowens will be guest speaker at the Lee Youth Association's eighth annual dinner April 6 at Oak N Spruce Resort. The program will begin at 6 p.m.

The program will include the presentation of the annual youth of the year award. An adult will also be honored as the adult volunteer of the year.

Mr. Cowens, 1970-71 rookie of the year and 1972-73 NBA most valuable player, played in seven NBA all-star games. He is chairman of the New England Sports Museum and president of the David W. Cowens Basketball School.

Tickets are limited and must be purchased by April 1 at the Lee Community Center between 2:30 and 5:30 weekdays. Tickets are \$12 adults, \$10 for children 14 and under.

Mall Opening Delayed

LANESBORO — A ruling by the state Office of Environmental Affairs will hold up the opening of Pyramid's Berkshire Mall here for perhaps as much as three months.

Pyramid, according to the commonwealth, must first comply with wetlands and other standards in constructing an access road.

Filene's, one of the major tenants, has laid off 125 workers, and other stores are likely to do the same.



Mickey Scapin, shown with his sister Loretta, recently caught a 22-inch pickerel, weight three pounds. The Lee residents, with their father Tony Scapin, fished at Lilly Pond.

Who Really Knows What's Going On In Town

If you want to know what is happening in the town of Lee, don't ask the Selectmen, ask Bobbie Pollard, who has been secretary to the Selectman since 1979.

Mrs. Pollard, who had been secretary to the principal at Lee High School for 18 years, was two days short of retiring from this position when she received a phone call from the Selectmen's office. She was asked to fill in "temporarily" for someone who was leaving. She has been at this job — with enthusiasm — ever since.

Not only had Mrs. Pollard been involved with the school system for many years, she had also been secretary to the Zoning Board since 1962. So she really knows the town. In addition, she has always been a "people person". She never gets angry. As a matter of fact, the angrier someone might get on the phone, the calmer and cooler Mrs. Pollard becomes.

Mrs. Pollard was born in Springfield, where she met her husband Jim, who was a native of Lee. While living in Springfield, she worked in industrial relations for

Westinghouse. There again she was dealing with people.

Moving from Springfield to Lee took some adjusting because of the difference in the size of the towns. However, she came to love the town and thinks the people are the friendliest and most helpful she has met.

Mr. Pollard is retired from managing the Electrolux store in Pittsfield, but he still serves his old customers. The couple live on High Street in a house large enough to accommodate four children and seven grandchildren during all the holidays.

Mrs. Pollard says she is the "Pearl Mesta" of the Berkshires.

Mr. Pollard does the gardening and Mrs. Pollard said she loves to play golf and quilt. She loves her job, her family and her life.

Studies In Spain

SHEFFIELD — William T. Schnurr of Mill Pond, a junior economics major at College of the Holy Cross, Marquette University, is participating in the school's exchange program at the University of Madrid, Spain, campus.

Fire Chief Study Committee Lists Criteria

LEE — There was discussion at Monday evenings Selectmen's meeting about establishing criteria for selecting the new fire chief.

There seems to be a reluctance on the part of the firemen to take any type of written exam to fill this position. Their feeling is that if a written exam is necessary, the position should have been left in Civil Service. However, the firemen said they do realize that the Selectman cannot arbitrarily select a fire chief.

After much discussion, the decision was made to post a notice in the Lee and South Lee fire departments asking those firemen who have had 10 years' active service to notify the Selectmen by March 28 if they are interested in the position of fire chief.

A decision will be made on the next steps to be taken based on the number of applicants. It may be possible to fill the position for the present without extensive testing, and then come up with written criteria for the future.

B10 — The Berkshire Eagle, Friday, March 18, 1988

Navy honors Lee native as flight instructor of the year

By William J. Carey
Berkshire Eagle Staff

LEE — Lt. Matthew J. Boyne, a Navy flight instructor based in Kingsville, Texas, is the real-life "Top Gun."

Boyne, the son of John and Barbara Boyne of 26 Greylock St. and a 1976 graduate of Lee High School, recently was named 1987 flight instructor of the year for the entire Naval Air Training Command. He bested 849 other instructors for the honor.

Though he knew he was in contention for the top national billing, Boyne, 29, said he was taken by surprise when the naval command singled him out last month.

"I was walking into work when a friend came up and congratulated me," he said. "I thought he was talking about the birth of my daughter, so I said 'thanks.'"

Friendly and unassuming, Boyne has a reputation for demanding the most of his students.

"Lt. 'Pug' Boyne is known at squadron VT-22 for total dedication to the safe training of naval aviators," the base newspaper reported. "He is continually lauded in student critiques for his demanding yet completely honest approach to flight instruction."

The paper also quotes Capt. Lanny McCune, commander of the air wing to which Boyne is attached.

"If we go to war, I want Pug in my squadron because he's the kind of pilot who will make the difference between winning and losing," McCune said.

A captain of the football and hockey teams at Lee High, Boyne graduated from the Naval Academy at Annapolis in 1980. He attended flight school and earned



Lt. Matthew J. Boyne
'Top Gun'

his wings as a naval pilot two years later.

For the next three years, he flew the A-7E Corsair jet for the Navy and was part of the American task force that clashed briefly with Libyan forces in March

1986. A few months later, he was assigned to the Naval Air Station at Kingsville, near Corpus Christi, as an instructor.

Boyne described his role at Kingsville as "kind of like the vice principal" who reports to the operations officer. He is responsible for the day-to-day scheduling and operations of about 86 pilots, and teaches navigation, weapons delivery and aircraft carrier landings.

Coincidentally, his students use the same training jet pictured in "Top Gun," the movie starring Tom Cruise. The jet has a top speed of about 600 miles per hour and flying range of 1,000 miles, Boyne said.

According to Master Chief Petty Officer John L. Caffey, the base's public affairs officer, Boyne began his road to the top by winning best teaching honors in his squadron and air wing, respectively. He said the chief of the Naval Air Training Command then chose Boyne as the best candidate from all wings.

The decision was based on his effectiveness as an

instructor, contributions to safety, leadership, character and community involvement.

"For the wing and the base this is an honor because there's only one," Caffey said of Boyne's achievement. Should Boyne be considered for promotion, "it helps to be the instructor of the year," he said.

After the award was announced, a beaming Boyne was featured in the base publication with his wife, the former Mary Elizabeth Dunham of Dalton, his son Patrick, 3, and newborn daughter, Molly. He also was pictured in the weekly "Kingsville Record and Bishop News" standing proudly at the nose end of a training jet.

For this local boy, it was a dream come true and then some.

"You know how some kids want to be firemen?" he asked. "My desire since the age of 14 was to be a carrier pilot."

Berkshire Eagle, Thurs. March 17, 1988

Lee's reading curriculum up for school board review

By William J. Carey
Berkshire Eagle Staff

LEE — The School Committee will take a closer look at the school system's reading program.

The call to action was sounded Tuesday by committee member Carol E. LePrevost, who complained that schools give too little emphasis to reading. She cited a recent article in The Eagle that stated, among other things, that approximately 600,000 people, or about one-tenth the state's population, have reading skills below those of a 4th grader.

LePrevost said her own children still have reading problems after passing through the school system.

"It really makes your heart bleed to believe that someone could go through the system taking it and making it," she said. "And I know, because I have two boys who did."

Teacher Maryann Fitzhugh told the committee some students have their difficulties addressed through the special education program and others through the federal Chapter 1 program for reading and math. She suggested that those with less obvious difficulties may fall through the cracks.

"The kids who are borderline, who could read better if motivated — these are the kids that don't get referred because people feel they have the skills," Fitzhugh said.

High School Principal Henry T. Zukowski said that in the past reading has not been separated from the

arts and languages curriculum. He said reading should be considered as a course in itself at all grade levels.

Zukowski said he would discuss the issue with teachers and administrators and report back to the School Committee in May.

In other business, School Committee Chairman Judith L. Olds reported that 21 candidates have applied for the job of superintendent of schools now held by Clarence C. Truesdell.

In January, a joint committee representing Lee, Otis and Tyringham voted not to renew Truesdell's contract, and the superintendent then resigned. That same committee will meet March 24 to consider the applicants.

Also, the School Committee scheduled an open meeting April 19 at 7 p.m. to review the fiscal 1989 school budget. The committee has submitted a preliminary budget of \$3.6 million, which represents a 5 percent increase over last year's appropriation. However, the committee is still negotiating salaries with administrators, teachers, nurses, aides and secretaries.

Zukowski reported that four stainless-steel letters were removed from the high school wall by vandals. The letters, used to spell Lee High School, are valued at \$532.

The principal reported student absentee rates of 17 percent at the Central School and 14 percent at the high school because of the flu season.

Lee

Town Can't Help With Sludge Disposal

By Bonnie Oloff

LEE — William Bean, chairman of the Selectmen, read a letter Monday from the West Stockbridge Board of Selectmen. This letter, which has been sent to Pittsfield, Great Barrington and Stockbridge, is a request for help in disposing of the sludge that will be generated by an anticipated new sewage system in West Stockbridge.

The new sewer system will clean up the Williams River, and therefore the Housatonic. However, in order to be eligible for grants, the town must have an inter-municipal agreement in regard to sludge disposal.

Lee's sewer system is almost up to capacity, according to the Selectmen. Therefore, Lee can be of no help to West Stockbridge, the board said.

Kids Send Letter With Canoist

LEE — Last Thursday, some 20 children from the Learning Center-Pre School and the Brownie Troop that Mary K. Bradbury (owner of the school) leads met Dennis Alsup on his canoe trip up the Housatonic River.

Mr. Alsup, a Stockbridge resident, is canoing to Boston to publicize the need for clean water.

Mrs. Joseph Powers, one of the teachers at the school, took the children, who ranged in age from two to six years, to meet Mr. Alsup behind the school at West Park Street.

Even though it was pouring, Mr. Alsup and the children took time to discuss the trip, which is meant to focus on the need for clean water legislation. Mr. Alsup's

trip, which will take 33 days will end in Boston with a meeting with the state legislature.

The children signed their names on the canoe. The signatures on the canoe will become a permanent marker for his endeavor, according to Mr. Alsup.

The children presented Mr. Alsup with the following letter to be given to the state legislature: "Dear Legislature: We the children of the Greater Lee area are writing in support of Dennis Alsup's efforts to keep our waters clean in Massachusetts. Our future depends on your awareness and concern in his matter. We're counting on your continued effort to preserve the beauty of the Berkshires and of Massachusetts."

Four Seek Chief's Post

LEE — Monday was the deadline for those firemen who have been active in the department for more than 10 years to submit their names if interested in the job of fire chief.

Alan B. Sparks, Ronald J. Driscoll, Wilbur J. Hunt Jr.

and Lazzaro Buffis, acting chief, submitted their names

for this position.

The fire chief study committee will now meet with the fire department to come up with the criteria to select the chief.

LYA lines up ex-Celtics star for annual event

LEE — The Lee Youth Association will hold its eighth annual dinner April 6 at the Oak N' Spruce resort in South Lee and former Boston Celtics' star Dave Cowens will speak.

The program will include the presentation of the "Youth of the Year" award, and for the first time, an "Adult Volunteer of the Year" award. Past accomplishments and coming events will be reviewed.

Cowens, the 1970-71 NBA rookie of the year and a member of seven all-star teams, played on the 1974 and 1976 Celtics' champion teams.

Now retired as a player, Cowens is married with two daughters. He is chairman of the board of directors of the New England Sports Museum and president-director of the David W. Cowens Basketball School.

Sportscaster Rodger Wyland of TV-13 in Albany, last year's speaker, will be master of ceremonies.

Tickets for the event are limited and must be purchased by April 1 at the Lee Community Center on Academy Street. Tickets can be purchased from 2:30 to 5:30 on weekdays.

The tickets are \$12 for adults and \$10 for children aged 14 and under.

Health Fair Will Be Held April 9

LEE — The Lee Visiting Nurse Association has announced the tests, events and special features of its biennial health fair, to be held April 9 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Central School on High Street. The fair is free to all residents of Lee, Tyringham, Becket, Middlefield, Blandford, Chester and Sandisfield, the towns regularly served by the VNA.

Tests and services will include blood pressure readings, breast and pelvic examinations, Pap smears, electrocardiograms, dental checkups and oral cancer detection, glaucoma and vision tests, hearing tests, Mantoux tuberculin tests, orthodontic screening, testing for curvature of the spine and distribution of take-home kits for colon (rectal) cancer detection.

Exhibits and information will be provided by the following organizations: Women's Services Center, American Heart Association, Hospice, Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, Elder

Services, Rape Crisis Center, Blue Cross-Blue Shield, Berkshire Health Plan, Right to Life, Family Planning Council of Western Massachusetts, American Cancer Society, Western Massachusetts Lung Association, Emergency Medical Treatment, Lee VNA, Recording for the Blind, Hillcrest Community Health Plan, Kripalu, Lions Club, Compeer, Hilcrest Respiratory Service, Berkshire County Chioprac, Berkshire Mental Health, Hillcrest Hospital and Berkshire Health Systems.

The Club at Bousquet will demonstrate its Nautilus Lifecycle. There will also be a CPR demonstration by the Lee Ambulance Squad and a canine demonstration by the Massachusetts State Police. The Red Cross will offer information about AIDS, car seats for children and the Heimlich maneuver.

There will also be information on nutrition and tuberculosis. Fingerprinting of children for identification purposes will be offered.

At 11 a.m., Lenox psychologist and family counselor Gil Slote will speak. The Bonnie Prudden Institute for Physical Fitness and Myotherapy will offer a talk at 1 p.m. about myotherapy

for pain relief and will provide exercise demonstrations throughout the day.

Special events and materials will also be offered to children, including videos, balloons, First Aid and cast-making demonstrations, tours of the town ambulance and police cars, doctors' and nurses' hats, coloring books, a hay ride, an exhibit of hospital equipment and a visit by the Price Chopper robot.

There will be raffles, door prizes, free refreshments and free babysitting provided.

In addition to staff members of area health-related organizations and members of the Lee VNA board and staff, many area physicians, dentists, nurses and other healthcare professionals are volunteering their time and services for the event. General chairmen are Anne Mack and Donna Trask.

More information and appointments for tests are available by phoning the VNA of-

Lee panel narrows field in search for school head

LEE — The search committee representing the Lee, Otis and Tyringham school boards has narrowed the field of candidates for the superintendent of schools' job to eight.

Meeting Thursday, five members of the committee took just over an hour to eliminate 14 of the 22 initial applicants for the job, which carries a negotiable salary in the mid-\$40,000 range. It declined to release any names until the seven men and one woman still in contention are notified.

Those candidates, most of whom reside in Berkshire County, will be interviewed April 11, 12 and 13 if they decide to continue participating in the selection process.

The winner will succeed current Superintendent Clarence C. Truesdell, who tendered his resignation

Jan. 7 after the joint school board representing the three towns voted not to renew his contract. Truesdell first came to the school system in August of 1985. He is on a leave of absence and is reportedly seeking new employment.

The selection committee members who met Thursday — Judith L. Olds and Edward M. Lahey of Lee, David Roberts and Robert Clark of Otis and Marion T. Clark of Tyringham — based their decisions on the experience, education and recommendations of the 22 applicants. They disagreed little in choosing the eight contenders.

"It's to the point now where I wouldn't want to exclude anybody," said Roberts. "I think all of them are strong enough to be interviewed."

Eagle, Sat. March 26, 1988

Eagle, Wed. March 23, 1988

CAMPAIGN '88: SUPER TUESDAY

County races: Hot battle for Democratic leadership

By Anthony Flint
Berkshire Eagle Staff

PITTSFIELD — The big story in terms of local Democratic politics Tuesday won't be just how Gov. Michael S. Dukakis will do. Three Berkshire County natives will be battling it out in a hotly contested party leadership race.

State Rep. Christopher J. Hodgkins, D-Lee, and Sanford Bookless of Pittsfield are challenging incumbent Gary Alan Shepard of Adams, a Dukakis aide, for the honor of being the male representative from the local senatorial district on the Democratic State Committee. The district includes all of Berkshire County and portions of adjacent Hampden, Hampshire and Franklin counties.

The three men will be on the ballot alongside the Presidential candidates. Party regulars are expected to do most of the lever-pulling in this contest, which pits candidates from Southern, Central and Northern Berkshire County against each other.

Shepard, a former Adams selectman and the western coordinator for the governor's Office of Economic Development, has been state committeeman for the last four years. He is a staunch Dukakis supporter and has been campaigning on the "Dukakis team" theme.

Hodgkins had a falling-out with the governor after the Lee legislator and former Bridgewater State College President Gerard T. Indelicato engaged in a physical tussle in 1986. Hodgkins said Dukakis failed to apologize for the odd behavior of Indelicato, who subsequently became the focus of state and federal investigations and later resigned.

Bookless, a 70-year-old retired milk inspector from Pittsfield, is also lukewarm about Dukakis. A member of the Berkshire County Charter Commission who has support among many Pittsfield Democrats, Bookless is sharply critical of Shepard as well.

Shepard has an edge

Political observers generally give Shepard the edge. Shepard said he would be "honored" to have the opportunity to serve another four years but is otherwise running a low-key campaign. Both his challengers, however, have mounted campaigns that claim the incumbent is out of touch with rank-and-file Democrats.

"I just want the Democratic State Committee to be more responsive on the grass-roots level," said Hodgkins, who coordinated Gary Hart's campaign in 1984 when Dukakis was supporting Walter F. Mondale. "I happen to believe [the committee] has been rather elitist over the last few years."

Hodgkins is basing his effort on a four-plank platform: better voter registration, particularly for 18- to 30-year-olds, more grass-roots involvement, greater clout for Berkshire County in the drafting of the party platform, and a call to elect the state chairman from the floor of the convention rather than through the state committee.



Gary Shepard

Hodgkins, 30, is one of a handful of state lawmakers running for state committee posts across the commonwealth this year. He is in his third term as state representative. He is vice chairman of the House Agricultural Resource Committee and a member of the Ways and Means Committee. Hodgkins describes himself as a "rules reform" Democrat who focuses on environmental and consumer issues.

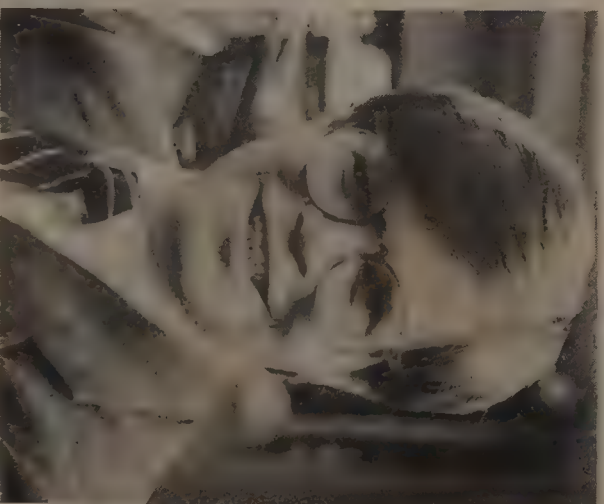
Bookless, who is Ward 6 chairman of the Democratic City Committee, said he is running for state committeeman on behalf of the average working people.

"The [Democratic] Party has been overfocusing on the upwardly mobile at the expense of the white-collar and blue-collar workers. We can't continue to accept the lowering of the standard of living of average Massachusetts workers," he said.

Bookless, past president of the Massachusetts Milk, Food and Environmental Inspectors Association and of the Berkshire Milk Dealers Association, says Massachusetts is not as prosperous as Dukakis is staking on the campaign trail.

"Massachusetts is losing jobs at the fastest rate in the nation. Over the past 40 months, 85,000 industrial jobs have been lost. . . . Workers have been leaving Massachusetts at an accelerated pace, which is actually the secret of the state's low unemployment rate," he said.

As a state committeeman, Bookless said, he would work to reverse the trend and support programs that would create opportunities for blue-collar workers. He



Christopher Hodgkins

said he would try to keep the issues before the public and make sure Western Massachusetts is not neglected.

A World War II Army veteran and deputy sheriff, Bookless said his primary motivation for running was his "disappointment" with the job Shepard has done, and at one point he charged that Shepard has failed even to show up at important committee meetings. Bookless said he is counting on heavy support in Pittsfield, but is running the campaign on a shoestring budget.

Others on ballot

Shepard, Bookless and Hodgkins are not the only party leadership candidates on the ballot Tuesday. Mary K. O'Brien of Pittsfield, the register of deeds for the Berkshire Middle District, is running unopposed for state committeewoman on the Democratic side. She is an incumbent.

The sole candidates for Republican state committee posts are David K. Chivers of Dalton and Marilyn J. Head of Williamstown. Edward E. MacDonald will be listed on the ballot as opposing Chivers for election as



Sanford Bookless

committeeman, but MacDonald has withdrawn to devote time to his planned campaign against Rep. Daniel E. Bosley, D-North Adams.

Chivers is a former chairman of the Pittsfield Republican City Committee. He was his party's candidate in 1983 in the unsuccessful attempt to capture the legislative seat now held by Rep. Sherwood Guernsey, D-Williamstown. Head is a former Williamstown town clerk and was the Berkshire County coordinator for the campaign to re-elect President Reagan four years ago.

Both the Democratic and Republican winners will represent the state political committees from the senatorial district made up of Berkshire County and portions of Hampden, Hampshire and Franklin counties.

Besides representing their districts, state committeemen and women perform organizational chores at convention time, serve as liaisons to local city and town committees, coordinate fund-raising and promote voter registration.

Democratic and Republican voters may choose one man and one woman to serve.

State chief faults Lee Selectmen for firing town building inspector

By William J. Carey
Berkshire Eagle Staff

LEE — Building inspector Edward M. "Buddy" Briggs was "wrongfully terminated" by the Selectmen, according to the chief of the state Division of Inspection.

In a March 4 letter, Chief of Inspections Charles J. Dinezio came out squarely in favor of Briggs in assessing the dispute that led to his firing Nov. 16. He charges that the "attempts of the Selectmen to usurp" Briggs's authority were "contrary to the provisions of law."

Selectmen Chairman William D. Bean said Thursday that his board had not seen the letter, which was addressed to Briggs only. He criticized Dinezio for making such judgments without notifying the town.

"It really doesn't matter"

"We haven't seen it and it really doesn't matter," Bean said of the three-page letter. "The individual never appeared before us, so he wasn't interested in the whole story."

Briggs, an 18-year veteran inspector, was relieved of the part-time job after he issued an occupancy permit for a single condominium unit at The Village at October Mountain. The Selectmen had ordered him not to, contending that a 1986 construction ban applied to that unit and others. The ban was instituted to force the Village developers to comply with certain conditions set by the town.

During a stormy showdown with the board, Briggs charged that Bean had overstepped his authority by asking town inspectors not to review two buildings, each containing four condominium units. He said the state had advised him to issue the permit even at the risk of being fired.

On Dec. 9, Dinezio asked for an explanation from the board and warned that Briggs's firing "could develop into a liability for the town of Lee." According to Bean, town counsel Jerome J. Scully responded to that request. It was the only communication, he said, between the town and Dinezio.

Dinezio prefaces his March 4 letter by stating that he had not reviewed "all pertinent documents" on October Mountain and based his opinion on letters

from Briggs, conversations that Briggs had with his staff, and correspondence from Scully. The letter makes no recommendations for remedial action by the town.

Based on his understanding of the dispute, Dinezio said, "I believe that the present Selectmen have in several instances improperly attempted to themselves enforce the building code, a duty which under law rests solely with the inspector of buildings."

While the board's actions ran afoul of the law, Briggs's conduct "may well have saved the town of Lee from a significant damage suit by the developer, who appears to have proceeded with all necessary approvals," Dinezio said.

"Good men are hard to find"

"In closing," he said, "I would like to add two comments. The first is that all too often attempts are made to use the office of the building inspector to enforce regulations or 'desires' that are only properly enforced through other mechanisms. My second comment is that, 'Good men are hard to find,' and that your, I believe, wrongful termination may well damage code-enforcement in the town of Lee."

Briggs, an engineer with the state Division of Capital Planning and Operations, said he has not yet decided what to do with the letter. He said he is two years' shy of receiving a county pension for his municipal service and may request a hearing before the Berkshire County Retirement Board.

"I really don't want to step on anyone's toes," he said. "But I want people to know that I did what I thought was right and these people backed me."

Eagle, Tues. March 29, 1988 Four apply for chief's post

LEE — Four men have stepped forward to vie for the position of fire chief.

The four, Acting Chief Lazzaro J. Buffis of 191 High St., Alan B. Sparks of 99 Franklin St., Ronald J. Driscoll of 35 Ferncliff Ave. and Wilbur J. Hunt Jr. of Pleasant Street, submitted their names by yesterday's deadline. The part-time job had been posted at both fire stations for the past two weeks.

In what promises to be a difficult, if not controversial decision, the Selectmen must now choose a permanent chief from the four. And if last night's Selectmen's meeting was any indication, the board is still divided on just how to do that.

Chairman William D. Bean said he believes a locally administered test "has got to be part of the criteria" in choosing the chief.

"They're all equally qualified people and it's going to be a tough decision," he said. "Therefore, we have to have as much information as possible."

However, Selectman Diane P. Roosa said, "I don't go along with a test for a small municipality." If there must be a test, she said, the position should remain in the Civil Service system.

Selectman Christopher A. Salinetti was not present.

Town meeting representatives voted in September to petition for special state legislation to remove the job from Civil Service. The reason: local candidates have tried and failed to pass the difficult, once-a-year state examination. Although

that legislation passed, representatives must endorse it at the annual town meeting in May, giving them a second crack at debating the pull-out.

Buffis has administered the department since the death of former chief Ottavio B. Giarolo in 1984. He is paid \$3,600 a year.

Now that interested candidates have revealed themselves, the fire chief study committee will be asked to devise a testing procedure. Bean advised one of the committee members last night to hasten that process in order to present something for the May 12 town meeting.



Leslie Harrison

NEW RESIDENTS of duplex for retarded in Lee include Jody Furer, left, and Laura Barnes.

Duplex in Lee for retarded adults first in county built with state funds

By William J. Carey
Berkshire Eagle Staff

LEE — The sound of a stereo floats through the hallway and several voices can be heard in the kitchen, where supper is being prepared. Except for the polished look of the place, one could almost mistake it for a college dormitory or rooming house.

Instead of students, this four-bedroom apartment and a twin apartment in the same building will be home to eight mentally retarded adults from the Belchertown State School and the surrounding community. It is a supervised, close-knit environment where residents will learn simply how to get along in the outside world.

Laura Barnes, one of four who have already arrived at the Marble Street duplex, spent 32 of her 38 years at Belchertown.

"I walked down to where the bank is," she said recently. "I took out \$10 because I needed it and I walked back to the house. I don't like to feel nervous — I like to feel able to do these things."

Completed in December, the 4,000-square-foot, \$480,000 building is the county's first new facility built with state funds under the Chapter 689 program. It is also the first project

to reach completion under the auspices of the Berkshire County Regional Housing Authority.

Similar units will be constructed in Stockbridge, Adams, Pittsfield, Lenox and another county site. Ground will be broken April 8 in Stockbridge and Adams.

The Lee duplex involves a local partnership of state, county and town agencies. Though developed by the county housing authority, it will eventually be turned over to the Lee Housing Authority, which owns the property on which it stands. The Lee agency, in turn, will continue a five-year lease agreement with the state Department of Mental Retardation.

The facility is being managed by the Belchertown State School, which will play a similar role at the Stockbridge project and two intermediate care facilities in Pittsfield. In Lee, the equivalent of about 20 full-time positions will be filled by the resident director, direct-care workers, nurses and specialists once hiring is completed.

Through contracts with provider agencies such as the Berkshire County Association for Retarded Citizens, the eight residents will participate in vocational, training and other programs during the day.

The placing of mentally retarded adults in community-based pro-

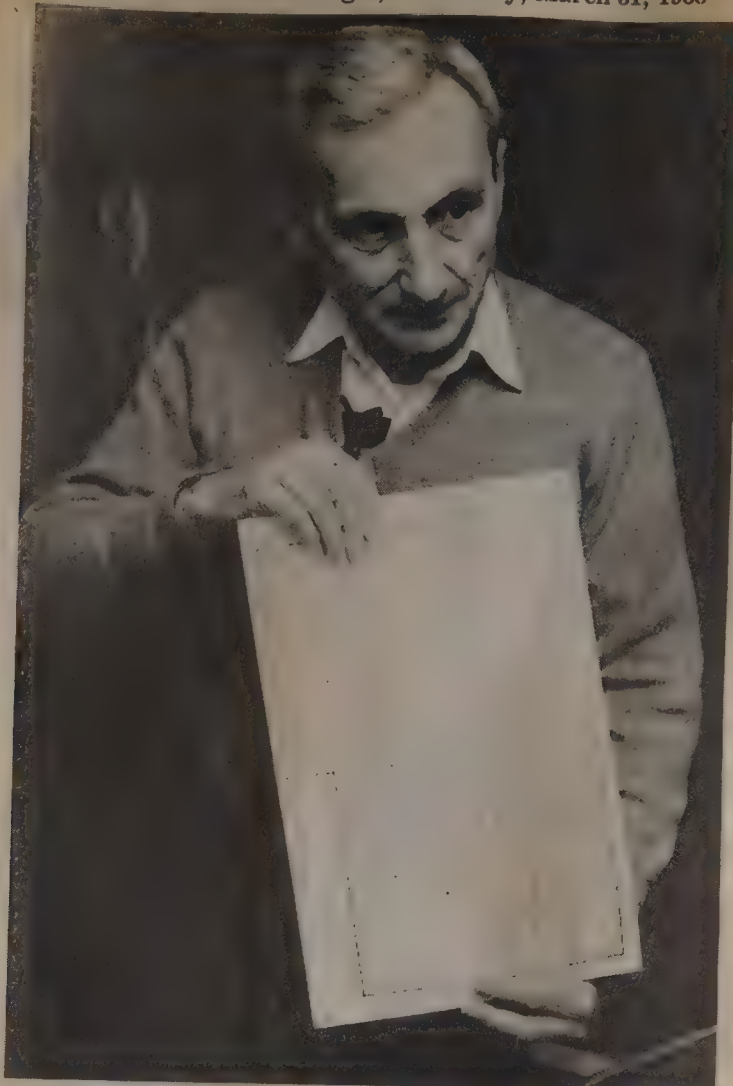
grams was spurred by consent decrees of the 1970s in which the state agreed to improve conditions and alleviate overcrowding within its institutions. The first decree of 1972 pertained to Belchertown.

According to the Department of Mental Retardation in Pittsfield, 102 Berkshire County natives have returned home from the school during that time. The number includes six who are being placed in the Lee duplex.

For residents such as Laura Barnes, "Our job is providing her with all of the training and teaching she needs to make her as independent as her potential allows," said Fred L. Holt, Belchertown's Berkshire County program director.

According to Barnes and 23-year-old Jody Furer, who moved from home, that potential is already being realized.

"I'm not nervous," said Furer, a dishwasher at the Lenox House. "I'm happy I moved."



William J. Carey
SHOWING OFF plans for a new emergency building on Main Street is attorney Henry M. Donahoe, chairman of Lee's Memorial Hall Study Committee.

Lee municipal project estimated at \$3 million

LEE — The cost of building a new emergency center, renovating the Civil War Memorial Town Hall and reorganizing the Airoidi Building will be about \$3 million, an architect said last night.

Edward L. Jendry of the Northampton firm Architects Inc. went over the cost figure during a two-hour meeting of the town's Memorial Hall Study Committee. The committee has been working on the building master plan for more than a year and hopes to make a presentation by May 12, at the annual town meeting, or soon after.

Fire station addition

Proposed is a two-level steel and concrete building that would be attached to the south side of the Central Fire Station on Main Street. The building would become the new home of a combined police, fire and ambulance complex.

At about the same time, the 114-year-old Civil War Memorial Town Hall on Main Street would be renovated, a project that calls for a new stairwell on the north side of the building, a lift for the handicapped, and a new elevator. With the freeing of space and shuffling of departments, the Airoidi Building on Railroad Street would be reorganized.

One major impetus of the project was to improve the cramped quarters of the Southern Berkshire District Court, which is known to be dissatisfied with its present arrangement at Memorial Hall. Equally cramped in the basement of the building is the Police Department.

Last May, town meeting representatives approved \$9,000 to study the master plan. The Memorial Hall committee, composed of top town officials and community leaders, used the money to hire Architects Inc.

According to Jendry, the pure construction cost of the project would be \$2,525,000 — \$1.4 million for building the new emergency building, \$1 million for renovating the Memorial Hall, and \$125,000 for reorganizing the Airoidi Building. The remainder would be for architectural fees, legal expenses, insurance and contingencies.

If the town financed the project through a 10-year bond, the tax rate would be increased by \$2, committee members said last night. That would require an override of Proposition 2½, which limits the amount of money a town can charge its taxpayers.

The committee briefly debated whether to seek roughly \$200,000 for architectural expenses or to lobby for the entire package. The members agreed to hold off any request until the project is firmed up and until town departments and the public have had an opportunity to study it.

"I think a lot of it now is public relations," said chairman Henry M. Donahoe. "If we get the feeling we're going too fast, we may have to pull back because we're asking for a lot of money."

The committee will meet with town departments April 13 and with the general public April 28 to discuss the project.

Interviews set in Lee for candidates seeking superintendent's job

LEE — Eight candidates for the superintendent of schools' post have agreed to attend interviews with the joint selection committee representing Lee, Otis and Tyringham.

The eight were chosen last week from a field of 22 original applicants for the job.

They are: Henry T. Zukowski of Lee, principal of Lee High School; Paul D. Pharmer of Dalton, assistant superintendent of the Central Berkshire Regional School District; Robert F. Gazda of Middlefield, administrator of Gateway Regional

High School in Huntington; and Margo W. Barnhart of Amherst, assistant superintendent of Amherst-Pelham schools.

Also: John Gawrys Jr. of Medway, superintendent of Medway public schools; Ronald W. Pacy of Pepperell, principal of Lynnfield High School; Michael G. Waring of Lexington, an education and data-processing consultant; and Richard A. Alto of Contoocook, N.H., principal of the Hopkinton School District in Contoocook.

The candidates will be interviewed April 12 and 13 by the six-member selection committee representing the towns. The selection committee, in turn, will make a recommendation to the joint school board.

The candidate selected will succeed Superintendent Clarence C. Truesdell, who submitted his resignation — effective in August — in January after the school board voted not to renew his contract. Truesdell, who was hired in August 1985, is on a leave of absence and is reportedly seeking new employment. Zukowski has been reporting to the Lee School Committee in his absence.

Saturday, April 2, 1988

Berkshire Eagle

LAURIE FORFA

Memories

LEE
It all began with a letter from my alumni association. Besides the annual request for dues, the enclosed flier announced plans for a school reunion and requested help in finding "lost" classmates.

In minutes I was down in the basement poring over my well worn yearbook, the Madonnian, and rummaging through my collection of the black and white photos taken during my three years at the St. Luke's Hospital School of Nursing in Pittsfield.

It's the fall of 1965. I am 18 years old and off to study nursing under the watchful eye of the Sisters of Providence. I've not spent much time around the nuns, and these women in their long white habits and softly clinging rosary beads keep me in awe. I never figure out how they always know exactly what I do — and what I don't do.

I stand in the courtyard on East Street surrounded by the five-story hospital, the convent, the nurses' residence and the clinic building. In this small world I will live, eat, sleep, work, study and learn. I scarcely have any idea how profoundly the things that happen here will shape my whole future and that of the 50 other freshmen who are with me.

We're called "probies" right now. It means we're in our first six months of training, on probation, earning our caps and and right to continue in the St. Luke's tradition.

We dress in long blue-and-white pinstripe uniforms with crisply starched white aprons and call each other very formally "Miss" when we're on duty. We're taught to stand for doctors, to fall to our knees when Father passes with Communion and to hurry into the hallway when Sister taps the bell that means she is looking for someone.

Like the students before us we take turns slipping into the Bishop's Dining Room (off limits and shrouded in secrecy) and peeking into the rooms of hospitalized nuns. We can't imagine what a nun might look like without her habit.

The Great Northeast Blackout occurs during this time, and Sister deploys us everywhere from patient rooms to the hospital kitchen to wash dishes. I carry a flashlight around for a real nurse while she changes dressings and adjusts I.V. rates, and it reinforces my feeling that this is just the kind of work I want to do.

The American Nurses Association issues a position paper calling for a bachelor of science degree for entry into professional practice, and the school denounces it. I have no idea I will be embroiled in the bitter debate over the very same issue in 1988.

It is the winter of 1966. I have survived probation and received my cap in the hospital chapel. I carry a small lamp and recite the Nightengale Pledge.

I learn the nuns are very serious about rules. Bedcheck is at 10 in the nurses' residence. Shades are pulled halfway during the day to give the building a nice uniform appearance (there are demerits if I don't comply). A long coat is required over pants when I go out to the car on off-duty days.

I learn about thrift and conservation. Each week I'm issued one new sheet for my bed in the dorm. The old bottom sheet goes in the wash. The old top sheet becomes the bottom sheet and the new top sheet goes in place.

And those rules are even more strictly enforced in the hospital. I'm rousted out of bed one night and escorted to the hospital. I stand outside my patient's room and try to remember what I've forgotten. Finally Sister sternly points out that I've failed to put the callbell within the patient's reach. I've left him without any way to summon help. Those words follow me right up to the present day. I never leave a patient's room without checking to make sure the bell is within easy reach.

The year is 1968. I am preparing to graduate. There are 27 of us who have completed the rigorous program.

Marguerite Tristany, a long-time instructor in the school, helps us get ready for graduation. We all know she is someone very special. The nuns are the inside people at the school, Miss Tristany is the outside person, the link to the community and a nursing leader in the state.

I have no idea at this point that she and I will become close colleagues in the early '80s. She will take over nursing at Fairview Hospital. I will become director of nursing at Hillcrest Hospital. She will teach me much beyond my three years at St. Luke's.

We pick out long-sleeved white uniforms and Sister measures them with a ruler to be sure the skirts are of proper length. The final day as a student comes and we cut up our blue and white uniforms with a cheer. We make promises to keep in touch.

It's now 1988. The school has closed. The hospital has been converted into housing for the elderly. The nurses' residence houses offices. The nuns and instructors have gone off to other jobs or retirement. A few of the special women have died.

But the St. Luke's tradition continues in the work of its graduates and the memories continue to flow.

Laurie Forfa, a Lee resident, is director of nursing at Hillcrest Hospital.

Berkshire Eagle, Tues. April 5, 1988

Would-be owners of October Mtn. describe plans

By William J. Carey
Berkshire Eagle Staff

LEE — Three men who plan to buy the remaining property of The Village at October Mountain, a group of condominium owners who already live there, and town officials charged with monitoring the development got acquainted last night during a 90-minute meeting at the Airoidi Building.

Michael R. Sanginetti of Pittsfield and his partners, Bill Caparelli and

units, October Mountain laid off 47 workers in mid-January.

The three men, who arrived a few minutes late from the airport, were accompanied by engineer J. Philip Scalise and attorney Kelton M. Burbank. About 25 other people were on hand, including members of the Condo Owners' Committee.

The meeting was a cordial one, but it became obvious that a number of legal and engineering issues must be settled before the village changes hands. Selectmen Chairman William D. Bean said the new owners would have to seek a new special permit to complete the village and comply with all the terms of the original 1985 permit dealing with water, sewer, drainage and road work.

It was October Mountain's failure to satisfy these conditions — specifically the water and drainage requirements — that led to problems with the town. In addition, the developers allegedly relied on earlier, discontinued permits to construct the four buildings in question.

The Selectmen maintain that only 22 buildings are allowed at the village: 16 by the 1985 permit and six by earlier permits in the 1970s. There are now 26 buildings at the village.

Current condominium owners questioned whether the new developers would complete unfinished jobs — such as painting and landscaping — at the existing units. They also expressed surprise when told that building code violations such as improper firewalls and other problems may exist in their homes.

One resident suggested that no new permit be issued until those problems are addressed.

In response, Burbank said, "Merely because Mr. Sanginetti and his partners are taking over this project, you can't assume they are going to buy these problems. This is something that will have to be evaluated and considered."

Sanginetti is a land-use planner and project manager for Westbridge Associates of West Stockbridge. Caparelli, his cousin, is executive vice president of VLSI Technologies, a manufacturer of computer micro-chips. Roselli is chairman of Emerging Technology Sales Inc., a firm that represents electronics manufacturers.

'We're not Santa Claus, but we can work with you.'

Robert W. Roselli of Los Gatos, Calif., said they have an agreement to buy the unfinished portion of the village contingent on their ability to complete and sell four buildings and develop 10 acres for additional condominiums.

They assured the gathering that it would be in their best interest to make the village as attractive as possible.

"We're in this to make money," said Sanginetti. "We're not Santa Claus, but we can work with you." He pledged to "open lines of communication" with the October Mountain Condo Owners' Committee, which represents many of the people who have already purchased condominiums.

Controversy

The 43-acre, East Street village is owned by the October Mountain Development Corp., whose principals are Philip M. Manger and Robert H. Garrity. Since the two men broke ground in 1985, the development has been a source of ongoing controversy.

The problem came to a head Jan. 20 when the Selectmen voted to revise the development's original special permit because of alleged overbuilding and other violations. The action placed four of 26 buildings — a total of 16 condominiums — in legal jeopardy.

Several months prior to that, the Selectmen had ordered that occupancy permits be withheld from completed units. The permits are needed to close a condominium sale, and without the ability to sell new

Berkshire Eagle, Wed. April 6, 1988

VNA to hold health fair at Lee Central School

LEE — The Lee Visiting Nurse Association's biennial health fair will be Saturday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Central School on High Street.

The health fair features tests and special events and is free to all residents of Lee, Tyringham, Becket, Middlefield, Blandford, Chester and Sandisfield, the seven towns regularly served by the VNA.

Available to the residents will be blood pressure readings, breast and pelvic examinations, Pap smears, electrocardiograms, dental check-ups, oral cancer detection, glaucoma and vision tests, hearing tests, hemoglobin and and urinalysis tests, diabetes tests, tuberculin tests, orthodontic screening and curvature of the spine testing. Also, take-home kits for colon cancer detection will be distributed.

Exhibits and information will be provided by more than 20 local agencies and firms. The Club at Bosquet will display its Nautilus "Life-cycle" while a CPR demonstration will be given by the Lee ambulance squad and a canine demonstration by the Massachusetts State Police. The Red Cross will offer information on AIDS, car seats for children and the Heimlich maneuver to aid choking victims. Also offered will be fingerprinting of children for identification purposes.

At 11 a.m., Lenox psychologist and family counselor Gil Slote will speak. At 1 p.m., the Bonnie Prudden Institute for Physical Fitness and Myotherapy will offer a talk on myotherapy for pain relief. The institute will provide exercise demonstrations throughout the day.

Special attractions for children include videos, balloons, first aid and cast-making demonstrations,

tours of the town ambulance and police cars, doctors' and nurses' hats, coloring books, a hay ride, an exhibit of hospital equipment and a visit by the Price Chopper robot.

There will be raffles, door prizes, refreshments and free baby sitting.

In addition to VNA staffers and area agencies, many physicians, dentists, nurses and other health-care professionals are volunteering their services for the event. Co-chairmen are Anne Mack of Highfield Drive and Donna Trask of Theresa Terrace.

For more information and test appointments, one may contact the VNA office.

Lee

Housing Development May Be Sold

LEE — Kelton M. Burbank, attorney for three men interested in buying The Village at October Mountain, said at a meeting this week that the sale will take place contingent on their being able to sell the 16 units now in limbo, developing the 10 acres for additional condominiums and obtaining needed financing.

The meeting, which was to take place in the Selectmen's office, had to be moved to the senior center because of the approximately 30 people who attended.

The principals are Michael R. Sanginetti of Pittsfield and his partners, Bill Caparelli and Robert W. Roselli of Los Gatos, Calif. Mr. Sanginetti is a land-use planner and project manager for Westbridge Associates of West Stockbridge. Mr. Caparelli, his cousin, is executive vice president of VLSI Technologies, a manufacturer of computer micro-chips. And Mr. Roselli is chairman of Emerging Technology Sales, a firm that represents electronics manufacturers.

Also at the meeting were a group of condominium apartment owners who said they are very concerned about the responsibility that the new owners will take in completing what had been left unfinished by the current principals of October Mountain Development, Philip M. Manger and Robert H. Garriety. They have not finished such basic items as landscaping and painting of the outside of some of the structures.

The new owners said they are very willing to work with the present condominium owners to help solve their problems. However, it was also evident that the new owners do not have a legal obligation to correct what was left undone in the cosmetic areas of the present condominiums. They made it clear that it would be to their benefit to have a development that was esthetic pleasing to help sell the remaining units that they are buying and the units they hope to build on the remaining 10 acres.

The sale will not go through unless the legal and engineering problems can be settled. The new owners would still have to seek a new

special permit to complete the village and comply with all the terms of the original 1985 permit dealing with water, sewer, drainage and road work.

Philip Scalise, an engineer from Pittsfield, will begin to assess the problems involved and what can be done to solve them. Particularly those problems concerned with erosion and drainage.

And dialogue will begin between the condominium owners and the new owners.

Kindergarten Registration And Workshops

LEE — Registration for pre-school needs, kindergarten and grade 1 children for September will be held May 4 at the Lee Central School. Children now attending kindergarten at Lee Central do not need to register for grade one. Parents whose names begin with the letters A to L are asked to register their children from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m., M to Z from 1 to 2:45 p.m.

All children registering for kindergarten or grade 1 must present evidence of date of birth and of having been successfully immunized against diphtheria/tetanus/pertussis (DPT), measles/mumps/rubella (MMR) and must have completed polio vaccine (Salk or Sabin).

To attend kindergarten next September, a child must be four years, 11 months on or before Sept. 1. No child born after Oct. 1, 1983 will be accepted for kindergarten.

Two kindergarten workshops will be held in the kindergarten to grade 4 library at Lee Central School April 26 at 7 p.m. and April 27 at 3:30 p.m. Parents of enrolling kindergarten students should attend one of these workshops (without children). Parents of three- and four-year-old children with special needs should also attend.

Unemployment Rate

The Massachusetts unemployment rate dropped to 2.9 percent in March, down from 3.4 percent in February.



Denny Alsop of Stockbridge, on a cross-Massachusetts canoe trip to publicize the

need for clean water, stopped off in Lee to chat with schoolchildren.



Lee youngsters autograph Denny Alsop's canoe.

Safe Walking Topic Of Program

GREAT BARRINGTON — Walking safely will be the program topic at the regular meeting of Chapter 89, American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) at 2 on April 12 at the Senior Cen-

ter on South Main Street.

The program will include a 15-minute slide presentation titled "Safety Steps for Pedestrians." Ernest Gannett a past president, will speak about Chapter 89 involve-

ment in the past, and Great Barrington Police Chief William Walsh will comment and answer questions following the slide show.

This program was developed by the Traffic Safety Section of the American Association of Retired Persons, the nation's largest organization of older citizens.

All interested community members are invited

Youth Grant Received

By Bonnie Oloff

LEE — At the Monday Selectmen's meeting Chairan William Bean read a letter from state Sen. Peter Webber to David Canterbury of the Lee Youth Association, congratulating the association on the grant they received for child care planning and development from the Office for Children.

The grant will enable the association to expand their services to include kindergarten children and allow them to upgrade the services they offer older children.

Thirty-five proposals were submitted and 11 grants were awarded.



TOWERING ABOVE award winners last night was former Boston Celtics great Dave Cowens, the featured speaker at the Lee Youth Association annual dinner. With him are, from left, Jennifer Finnegan and Mandy Lahey, who shared Youth of the Year honors, and Karen and James Consolati, the top adult volunteers.

William J. Carey

Celtics great Dave Cowens plugs museum at Lee awards dinner

By William J. Carey
Berkshire Eagle Staff

LEE — Eight years after hanging up his green and white jersey, former Boston Celtics great Dave Cowens last night scored points for a new organization — the fledgling New England Sports Museum.

Cowens, the featured guest of the annual Lee Youth Association dinner and awards ceremony, called on the audience to sign petition cards backing the museum's plan to move into the Custom House in Boston. The signatures will be turned over to Boston Mayor Raymond Flynn.

"What we're trying to do is create an organization that will collect, preserve and display the sports heritage of New England," said Cowens, who is chairman of the museum's board of directors. "Every place has its own claim to fame, and no one is doing this sort of thing."

The buffet dinner at the Oak n' Spruce Resort drew about 100 people. Prior to Cowens' talk, LYA officials presented the first-ever Adult Volunteer of the Year award to the husband and wife team of James and Karen Consolati of Goose Pond Road, Tyringham. The Youth of the Year award was shared by 8th graders Jennifer Finnegan of Columbia Street and Mandy Lahey of Mill Street.

Looking trim and fit, the 6-foot-8, 39-year-old Cowens fielded questions on his most memorable game, his toughest opponent, the apparent unity of the Celtics and expansion of the National Basketball League, among other subjects. In his remarks, he displayed deadpan humor.

When asked by WSBS newsmen Dick Lindsey whether he cared if younger children recognized his name, Cowens said, "It's nice that they haven't seen you play, because then you can lie to them, tell them how great you are. The older we get, the greater we

were — you know that."

A 1970 product of Florida State University, Cowens played 10 years for the Celtics, averaging 18.2 points and 14 rebounds in 726 games. He was NBA Rookie of the Year in 1970-71 and Most Valuable Player in 1972-73. Before retiring, he played in 40 games for the Milwaukee Bucks.

Cowens is married with two children and lives in Needham. He was accompanied last night by Jason Marcus, an Everett city councilor and member of the New England Sports Museum's board of advisers.

The museum, located at 1175 Soldiers' Field Road on the banks of the Charles River in Boston, was opened in 1986. Under the relocation plan, it would occupy the first three floors of the centrally located Customs House, Cowens said.

Evoking images of Roxbury-born fighter John L. Sullivan, the Harvard-Yale rivalry, the Boston Marathon and the parquet floor at Boston Garden, Cowens said the museum welcomes sports memorabilia from all sources.

"We would always appreciate a call if you think you have something people would be interested in looking at," he said. "That's what the museum is all about — a resource of information."

Award winners

The Consolatis won top honors for co-chairing the LYA's raffle for the past two years and helping with the annual auction. James Consolati is chairman of the association's finance committee.

Finnegan was "involved very heavily in the programs we represent," said Youth Director David C. Canterbury. Of Lahey, Janet Pompei, director of girls' programs, said, "I really think a lot of this girl, mostly because she's her own kind of person — not influenced by her peers."

B8 — The Berkshire Eagle, Friday, April 8, 1988



Proud addition

Lee firefighter Bill DeFreest, left, and Acting Fire Chief Lazzaro J. Buffis display the town's new \$148,000 Maxim fire truck. The vehicle will be available for public inspection tomorrow during the Visiting Nurse Association health fair at Lee Central School. The truck will be deployed alongside a home sprinkler demonstration sponsored by the state fire academy and Lee Fire Department.

State seeks proposals to farm 25 acres of land it owns in Lee

By William J. Carey
Berkshire Eagle Staff

LEE — As part of what it terms a creative approach to land management, the state Division of Fisheries and Wildlife is seeking proposals to use as farmland 25 acres along Fernside Road and Meadow Street.

The land is part of the former Andrew G. Ketchen farm. Together with the former Russell Mitchell farm off Meadow Street and Tyringham Road, the state now owns about 280 acres in the area.

Tony Gola, a fish and game management specialist with the division's Pittsfield office, said that developing the land for agricultural uses benefits farmers, hunters and wildlife alike.

By allowing their cattle to graze, or by tilling the soil for corn, farmers open up the land for hunters and eliminate cover for game animals.

Gola said. In turn, the changes in terrain and diversity of plant life benefit the greatest number of species. Finally, by leasing the land to others, the state is shifting the burden of managing it.

"Once you lose a field to shrubs," he said, "it's a son of a gun to reclaim it."

In the case of the former Ketchen property, as in others, the state is offering a five-year lease arrangement with an option to renew. As payment for the use of the land, the

state will accept either a flat fee or trade-off in services, Gola said.

In one such trade-off, a farmer agreed to graze his Herefords in an area where the alders threatened to change field into forest.

"It's an open-ended thing," Gola said of the lease arrangements. "They can be as creative as they want."

The deadline for proposals for the land is Wednesday. Gola said three people have expressed an interest in developing it.

Eagle, Sunday, April 10, 1988

Officials in Lee on rebound from loss of toy firm

By William J. Carey
Berkshire Eagle Staff

LEE — Surprised by the announcement that Kay-Bee Toy & Hobby Shops Inc. plans to withdraw from Lee, town officials are looking to the bright side.

Contacted for their reaction, a number of officials said the toy company's large warehouse on Route 102 should be attractive to other businesses and will not go vacant for long.

"Though we hate to lose any jobs, there might be a silver lining in this cloud," said Selectmen Chairman William D. Bean.

Kay-Bee announced Wednesday that it plans to sublet or sell the warehouse and build one twice as big in Pittsfield. Those plans, it said, are contingent on state approval of a \$400,000 grant to construct a road and utility lines into the new site, an industrial park being developed by the Callahan Group off Route 20.

The company said all 38 employees at the Lee warehouse would be given the opportunity to work in Pittsfield.

For Lee, the announcement signaled the end of a 17-year relationship with the company, formerly known as Kaufman Bros. Last April, Kay-Bee moved its corporate headquarters from Lee to Pittsfield. The \$6 million office building became the cornerstone of the city's long-vacant Parcel 3.

Retention effort fails

Knowing that Kay-Bee was also outgrowing the warehouse space, Lee's Community Development Corp. actively wooed the company with at least two other sites for expansion: Route 20 behind the Clark-Aiken-Matik plant, and Route 102 west of the present warehouse. Last week the CDC won a \$30,000 state grant to conduct a feasibility study of the Route 102 site.

By that time, however, town officials had already heard through the

grapevine that Kay-Bee had different plans. However, when the news broke, they had still not heard from the company.

"We're a little disappointed that they didn't have the courtesy to notify us before it hit the press," said Bean. "Some good people on the CDC tried hard to find a good site for them."

Referring to the \$400,000 grant application, Selectman Christopher A. Salinetti noted, "It's a little hard to bid against Pittsfield and the state."

If the announcement came as somewhat of a surprise to the officials, Kay-Bee employees were not fazed.

"We knew we were going to have another warehouse, and it would be

Pittsfield, state were tough competition.

someplace in Berkshire County," said Joseph G. Welch of Sheffield, a supervisor. "It was no surprise."

Welch and another employee, Mark J. Drury of Lee, said they are not intimidated by the extra commute to Pittsfield.

Despite their initial chagrin, town officials said they are optimistic that some other company will find a use for the 95,000-square-foot warehouse. More than one said they had heard that a supermarket chain may be interested.

The warehouse is owned by the Kay-Bee Realty Trust and leased to the toy company — an arrangement that expires in 1992. The assessed value of the property is \$2,896,000. Based on a tax rate of \$12.91 per thousand of assessed value, the town made \$37,358 in taxes on it last

Officials

Continued on A4

Officials eye bright side

Continued from A3

year. Even if it were to go vacant for a short time, the value of the building — and the tax benefit to the town — should not diminish, town officials said.

"As far as I'm concerned, it's still a good building, and as long as they're actively trying to lease or sell it, I really don't think the town would stand for much of a loss," said Assessor John E. Loring.

Rep. Christopher J. Hodgkins, D-Lee, said the state would second-guess the \$400,000 grant to Pittsfield if it meant leaving Lee in the lurch. He said he plans to work with Kay-

Bee and local officials to smooth the transition if and when the company leaves town.

"The fact is, Kay-Bee needs more space," said Hodgkins. "We want to see that building better utilized vis-a-vis more jobs. The Selectmen in the town of Lee have to be a part of that."

Bean, who used to work for Kaufman Bros., said the town's loss is both "sentimental" and practical.

"We're going to miss them, but it's not the end of the world," he said. "I think the space was the big thing. They're a growing company and I wish them the best of luck."

Berkshire Eagle, Tuesday, April 12, 1988

Lee's Bean, Driscoll to compete at caucus

LEE — Two men who once sat side by side on the Board of Selectmen will compete against each other Thursday at the Democratic caucus.

Incumbent William D. Bean, 42, and challenger Charles J. Driscoll, 55, both Democrats, will square off for a three-year term in the only contest of this year's election season. With the Republican Party inactive, all other town positions are uncontested, barring write-in candidates.

The Democratic caucus will be held from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Senior Center on Railroad Street. A pre-caucus meeting will be held at 6:30 to elect officers.

Contacted yesterday, both Bean and Driscoll were confident of vic-

tory. Both also confirmed that they have filed nomination papers to run as independents based on the results of the caucus. The annual town election will be May 16.

Driscoll, a one-term former selectman, was unseated last year by political newcomer Diane P. Roosa. While he may have taken things for granted back then, "This year," he said, "I'm trying to touch the bases I didn't touch last year."

Driscoll said he is relying on his past experience, which includes stints on the Finance Committee, Planning Board and Housing Authority, to return him to office.

"In the past year, the town seems to have stopped," he said, recalling his efforts to form a personnel committee, an insurance committee, and the Memorial Hall study committee. "I would rather see progression instead of the harassment of lawsuits coming in."

Bean, who has chaired the board in the past year, said he has endorsements from former Selectmen William F. Tyer Jr., Joseph Castanova and Maria D. Bettega. He, too, is taking nothing for granted.

"I've been campaigning — I met with different senior groups and I've been talking to people on the streets," he said. "I've had a good time."

Told of Driscoll's comments, Bean said one thing that has stopped in town is uncontrolled growth. Under Bean's chairmanship, the Selectmen imposed a temporary building moratorium in order to have an expansion study conducted at the town's sewer plant. That moratorium is still in effect.

"We did not lie back and let things happen," Bean said.

The town's stance, he added, has generated a "great deal of respect" for Lee at the county level. As chairman of the Berkshire County Advisory Board, Bean has been able to hobnob with other county officials.

Driscoll, who is retired from the Kimberly-Clark Corp., lives on South Prospect Street with his wife, Marjorie. They have four children. Bean works at Clark-Aiken-Matik as a roll balancer. He and his wife, Sheila, live on Pine Street. They have one child.

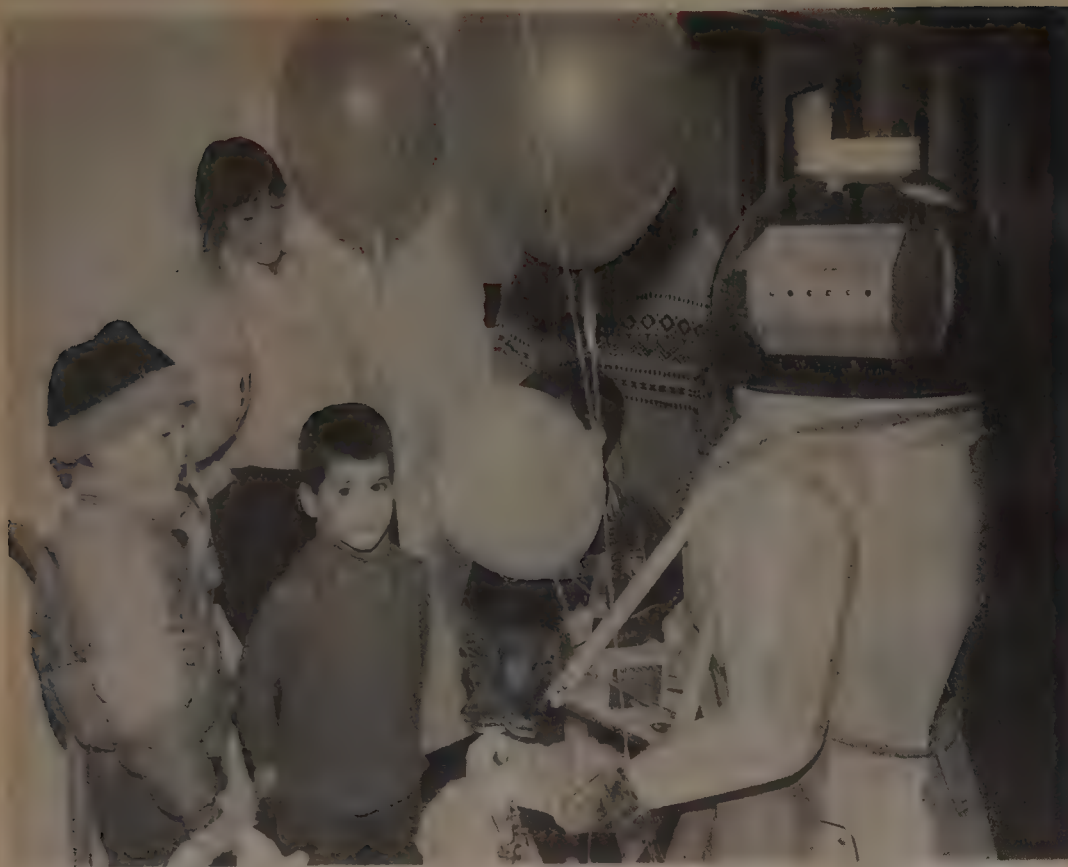
Rest of ballot

The remainder of the Democratic ballot contains no surprises. The following candidates will be running: Joseph M. Toole of 134 Orchard St., moderator, one year; John E. Loring of 194 Prospect St., assessor, three years; John J. Nagle of 57 Main St., town clerk and treasurer, three years, and Joseph F. DuPont of Fairview Street, Planning Board, five years.

Also, Franklin V. Sturgis of 4 William Parkway, Housing Authority, five years; Margaret A. Wellspeak of Main Street, Board of Health, three years, and Judith L. Olds of Hartwood Road and Joseph C. Savery of Stockbridge Road, two three-year seats on the School Committee.

There are three vacancies: a two-year assessor's position and two three-year constables' positions.

Berkshire Eagle, Mon. April 11, 1988



Photos by Leslie Harrison

MYSTIFIED YOUNGSTERS were greeted by the Price Chopper robot as they made their way to the Central School cafeteria for snacks at the Lee Visiting Nurse Association's eighth health fair Saturday. The robot quizzed the children about healthy foods and answered their questions.

VNA Health Fair attracts 350

By Meg Sandoval
Special to The Eagle

LEE — The eighth biennial Lee Visiting Nurse Association Health Fair drew more than 350 people to Central School on Saturday.

Available free of charge to residents of Lee, Tyringham, Sandisfield, Becket, Blandford, Middlefield and Chester were blood pressure readings, pelvic and breast examinations, Pap smears, electrocardiograms, dental and orthodontal checkups, posture screening for scoliosis, tuberculin and diabetes testing and oral cancer detection tests. Hearing acuity and glaucoma tests were also conducted.

"It is fun to see all the community spirit here," said Dr. Craig Fischer, an orthodontist with offices in Great Barrington and Pittsfield.

Family counselor Gilbert Slote of Lenox spoke to fairgoers about twins and their family relationships. He said the incidence of twins in the Lee area is higher than usual.

Representatives from Bonnie Prudden's Institute for Physical Fitness and Myotherapy talked about pain erasure and gave exercise demonstrations throughout the day.

Lee High School's booth provided information about its nationally recognized Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention Team. According to Kathleen Bort, program director and English teacher, ADAPT en-

courages better communication and decision-making skills. It includes an outreach program that takes high school students to the lower grades to lead discussions about coping with problems involving alcohol and drugs.

State Police Trooper Neil Ray-

mond put his attack dog, Saber, through his paces in an outdoor demonstration that was videotaped and replayed later in the gymnasium.

William J. DeFreest of the Massachusetts Fire Academy demonstrated the effectiveness of residential sprinkler systems in a special trailer donated by the Federal Emergency Management Agency. The sprinklers, which come on several seconds prior to a smoke detector's alarm, can douse or contain a fire within 15 to 20 seconds, he said, and the cost is "about as much as wall-to-wall carpet."

The demonstration was sponsored by the Lee Fire Department, which also had its newest fire truck, a 1988 Maxim that cost \$148,000, on display.

Donna Trask, co-chairman of the health fair, said Country Curtains donated fabric used to repair folding privacy screens that had been damaged by smoke in a fire last fall. The screens, which had been donated by the Austen Riggs Center in Stockbridge, were used to divide first-floor classrooms into "offices" for participants in the testing programs.

Decentralized management

By Lewis C. Cuyler
Berkshire Eagle Staff

LEE — David L. Klausmeyer, the No. 1 man at the Mead Corp.'s Specialty Paper Division, routinely uses the word "associates" when he refers to the 325 men and women on the plant's payroll. He has been doing so for nearly two years.

The word slipped out easily several times during an interview yesterday about the plant's operations. When questioned about its use, Klausmeyer expressed his absolute commitment to the idea that workers are partners, and therefore associates, in the process of making a manufacturing operation profitable.

The days are over when employees could just punch buttons or otherwise operate machines with no regard for the total process, he said. Instead, if a company is to succeed, its workers must think about how they can best meet the expectations not only of their employer, but also of the customers for their product. And they must have a say about their working conditions.

"It's a different style of management," he said. "We are now managing for continuous improvement. It's a style where we control the process to get the quality we want, rather than inspect the final product."

The difference at Mead is that the division Klausmeyer heads began to commit to changing its style back in 1982, probably making it a pioneer in Berkshire County.

Since then the idea of worker commitment has come of age as American companies strive to compete with overseas operations where decentralized, employee-based management structure is much more accepted.

Although the local Mead program was conceived in 1982, it didn't really start in a formal way until 1985, when the division instituted a pilot project. The program enters its mature phase next month when the training of 25 managers begins.

The program is formally called "OE," for organizational effectiveness.

"Until now, the program has op-

erated on a volunteer basis," said Peter S. Simmons, OE coordinator. "This year we extended it so that it will involve the entire work force in the two mills."

Last July, employees took a day off to review the program at a session sponsored by the division at the Berkshire Hilton in Pittsfield. During the session, Mead officials said

contract with Borg Warner.

One of the larger operations, he said, is the manufacture of the final layer of paper used in Formica products. The paper is part of the laminations that are impregnated with resins. As the outer layer of paper in the process, it becomes the surface for the exterior designs or patterns for Formica products. An-

The chain of command is not vertical. Instead, it's a series of concentric circles, with senior management in the center, four steering committees at the second level and numerous project teams on the outside.

the OE chain of command is not vertical. Instead, it's a series of concentric circles, with senior management in the center, four steering committees at the second level and numerous project teams on the outside. Senior management sets policy, steering committees act as a combined liaison-resource branch and project teams carry out changes.

Earlier this year, the division's annual yearly report reinforced the effort with a green and white cover listing the roster of employees and headlined "I am the Me in Mead."

In its introduction, the report identified the "six critical success factors" that are key to continued growth: quality, customer service, people, communication, innovation and cost effectiveness. The balance of the report elaborated on each concept.

Within the report, in a letter addressed to "Fellow Associates," Klausmeyer said that in 1987 the division showed a 6 percent increase in sales revenues compared with 1986 and set record highs in both sales dollars and tonnage of paper produced. The six critical success factors "gave us the driving force to set these records," he said.

However, his letter also noted record levels in customer complaints and returns — as well as progress in correcting the problems and the priority being given the OE program as the key to improvement.

As president and general manager, Klausmeyer has responsibilities for two plants and a warehouse in Lee. Although the division is linked to a national corporation with \$216.7 million overall earnings last year, the Lee mills operate as if they were an independent company, he said.

Product lines

Asked about its specific products, Klausmeyer ticked off a list that ranged from paper for the coffee filters used by Chemex and Melita to the "friction facing material" for automobile transmissions under

other product is the silica gel used in packing operations to absorb moisture. Yet another is paper with a reactive charcoal surface to absorb noxious gases.

The manufacturing takes place at the Willow Mill in South Lee, a handsome five-story 19th century structure in a picturesque setting on the Housatonic River, and at the newer Laurel plant in Lee.

Klausmeyer said the raw materials arrive in the form of pulp from all over the world. A variety of sources is needed for the raw material, he said, to obtain the right fiber content for the application.

During the manufacturing operation, pulp and water are mixed in a mammoth vat. Color and chemicals are added, and the resulting slurry then moves to 50-yard-long



Photos by Lewis C. Cuyler

MEAD'S Willow Mill, dating back to the 19th century, is one of the company's two plants in Lee.

papermaking machines that extract the water as the sheet moves through gigantic rollers. The final steps are a drying process and then cutting and rolling the finished product on a core, ready for shipping.

Klausmeyer said the division works extremely closely with its customers to produce paper to their specifications, a process that fre-

quently involves extensive research.

The two mills operate 24 hours a day, seven days a week, with four shifts, so that one shift is always off. The work force is not unionized.

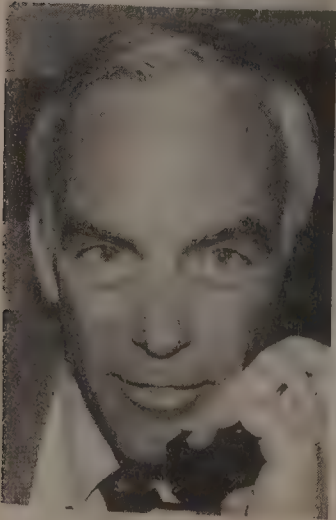
Because there are so many industrial applications for paper products, Klausmeyer said the market potential continually expands. In addition, he said, the division is aggressively pursuing

overseas markets.

He said he expects that 1988 will be a year for more records as the plants become more efficient in production.

"However," he said, pausing for emphasis, "how well we do is a direct result of how effective we are in working as a team. . . . We are associates; we are in business together."

coming of age at Mead



David L. Klausmeyer
A different style

42. Lee

Reservoir Discussed At Monday Meeting

By Bonnie Oloff

LEE — Monday's Selectmen's meeting was moved into the Senior Center because of the size of the group from Lee and Lenox involved in further discussions regarding the Washington Mountain Reservoir project.

The discussion centered around whether or not the towns should spend additional money to grub and remove about 30 to 40 thousand yards of organic material from the beaver pond area in Schoolhouse Lake.

The project, which began about 20 years ago, started as a flood control and recreational project and is being partly funded by the Soil Conservation Service. Since its inception, however, the decision was made to have the water that will eventually come from Schoolhouse Lake serve as the main source for drinking water. October Mountain Lake will be used mainly as a recreational area and Washington Mountain Lake as flood control.

Although there were about 30 people at the meeting, the main discussions took place between a professor from the University of Massachusetts hired by Lenox to advise them on their water supply, Joe Moynihan, president of MMAC, Lenox's engineering firm, and Dave Lenart, the engineer from Tighe & Bond, Lee's engineering firm.

The consultant has done testing on the water on October Mountain Lake twice a month for one year. His findings show that because of the decomposition of the trees and other organic material in the lake, the water has a high level of iron and manganese. The water would not be drinkable unless heavily treated.

Schoolhouse Lake has not been filled and the consultant and Mr. Moynihan said they feel that the beaver pond area should be grubbed and cleaned before it is filled.

There was general agreement among the representatives from Lee that the beaver pond area should be cleaned. However, they seemed to feel that this was going to be done by the Soil Conservation Service.

William Bean, chairman of the Selectmen, suggested that before the group proceeds, someone check with the Soil Conservation Service and get their input on their responsibility for cleaning out the beaver pond. Mr. Lenart will contact the SCS and report back to the committee.

In other business this week, the Selectmen had further discussions on a consultant's report on the future of town government. They voted to have him proceed with studies on the town of Lee hiring a town administrator. After this report is completed, it will be presented to the Selectmen and eventually presented to the town representatives for a vote. However, this step is a long way down the road.

Lee Earns Feasibility Grant

LEE — The town has received a \$30,000 grant to evaluate the feasibility of turning an 85-acre site into an industrial park. The award was announced by Amy S. Anthony, state secretary of communities and development.

The grant will pay for examining property on Route 102 just southwest of the Massachusetts Turnpike. Three parcels there, identified by the town with the help of an EOCD Strategic Planning grant, is eyed for industrial development. A study will identify target industries, appraise the site and look at engineering and environmental issues.

The town will contribute \$3,000 to the study.

Lee Project: \$3 Million

LEE — It will cost an estimated \$3 million if voters here decide to go along with plans to build a new emergency center and renovate the town hall.

Edward L. Jenry of Architects Inc. of Northampton last week presented plans which are expected to be presented at the annual meeting May 12.

A proposed two-level steel and concrete emergency center, to house police, fire and ambulance departments, would be built south of the Central Fire Station, according to a report in the daily press.

The Berkshire Eagle, Friday, April 15, 1988 — B9

Bean tops Driscoll in caucus

LEE — Incumbent Selectman William D. Bean defeated challenger Charles J. Driscoll by 75 votes last night in the Democratic town caucus.

Driscoll, a one-term former selectman, said he has not yet decided whether to stay in the race as an independent. If he does, the two will square off again in the May 16 general election.

The situation puts Driscoll, as chairman of the Democratic Party, in a special predicament. He said he would probably resign his chairmanship if he decides to buck the party and run independently.

"Naturally, it's tough to beat an incumbent," he said after the vote was tallied. "I've got to do some soul-searching. I've been a Democrat all my life."

A total of 388 voters, or 15 percent of the town's registered Democrats and independents, went to the polls at the Airolti Building. Of those, 229 voted for Bean and 154 for Driscoll.

All other positions were uncontested.

The results:

Moderator (Nominate 1, 1 year)	
Joseph M. Toole*	296
Selectman (Nominate 1, 3 years)	
William D. Bean*	229
Charles J. Driscoll	154
Town Clerk (Nominate 1, 3 years)	
John J. Nagle*	312
Town Treasurer (Nominate 1, 3 years)	
John J. Nagle*	297
Assessor (Nominate 1, 3 years)	
John E. Loring	296
Assessor (Nominate 1, 2 years)	
Edward M. Briggs**	35
Planning Board (Nominate 1, 5 years)	
Joseph F. DuPont	273
Board of Health (Nominate 1, 3 years)	
Margaret A. Wellspeak	285
Housing Authority (Nominate 1, 5 years)	
Franklin V. Sturgis	311
School Committee (Nominate 2, 3 years)	
Judith L. Olds*	276
Joseph C. Savery	254
Constable (Nominate 4, 3 years)	
John Piacquadio	235
Pauline Pollard	271
John Wheeler**	11
Edward Herlihy**	5

* Denotes incumbent.

** Denotes write-in votes.

ST. MARY'S SCHOOL



LEAVING ST. MARY'S SCHOOL after 14 years as principal is Sister Barbara Price, who cited the need for a career change in making her decision.

Officials of four towns to discuss Century Cable

LEE — Four towns served by Century Berkshire Cable Co. will meet tonight at 5:30 at the Airoldi Building to discuss their relationship with the cable company.

The meeting, arranged by state Rep. Christopher J. Hodgkins, D-Lee, will bring together selectmen and cable committee members from Lee, Lenox, Stockbridge and Great Barrington. Also invited is state Sen. Peter C. Webber, R-Pittsfield.

Hodgkins aide Bruce Carlow said the meeting was called to field questions about the cable company's service, to devise a proper procedure for relaying complaints, and to prepare for the next round of contract talks.

St. Mary's principal giving up post

By William J. Carey
Berkshire Eagle Staff

LEE — Citing the need for a career change, Sister Barbara Price has announced that she will step down as principal of St. Mary's School after 14 years in that post.

Price, 50, informed the St. Mary's School Board, teachers and parents last month of her decision to resign. She said yesterday that she has been offered a number of assignments, both as teacher and principal, and is carefully considering her next move.

"After a while, there's not too much you can do," she said of the resignation, which becomes effective at the end of the school year. "It was a hard decision to make, but I felt I had to make it for the parish and the school. I'll miss it — I love it here."

Price said the Sisters of St. Joseph of Chambery, an order based in Hartford, Conn., has already recommended a new principal to the Springfield diocese. Confirmation of that choice is expected next week.

Born an only child in Manhattan, N.Y., Price attended a Catholic grammar school before moving with her parents to Connecticut. There she attended Sacred Heart Acad-

emy in Stamford and, after graduating, entered the Sisters of St. Joseph.

Of her decision to join the order, Price said, "I think it was being friendly with the sisters and admiring their life while I was in high school."

Started in '64

Price came to St. Mary's as a 2nd-grade teacher during the 1964-65 school year. After fulfilling other assignments in Connecticut, Maryland and New Hampshire, she returned in 1971 to teach the 4th grade. Three years later, she took on the dual role of teacher and principal, and in 1978 became full-time principal.

Founded in 1885, St. Mary's is the oldest parochial school in the county. During her tenure, Price said, the school's enrollment rose from about 180 students to a peak of 255 in 1982. It now has 199 students in eight grades. There are eight lay teachers and two sisters: the school librarian and Price.

"I think parents would like to see more religious staff, but it just isn't possible," Price said, noting that fewer nuns are available these days to teach. Nevertheless, she said her present staff is "dedicated" to the parochial school education.

Among her achievements, Price listed the establishment of a hot lunch program, an after-school ski program, a stamp club and the

placement of a flagpole in front of the Orchard Street school.

Though limited by a tuition-based budget and rising costs, she said, "It's beautiful the support you have at this school. I find it's rare and special."

Patricia A. Jaouen of Lenox, a veteran teacher and member of the school board, said Price made a "courageous" choice in opening the school to new leadership. Noting the difficulty of the administrator's job, Jaouen said, "she's done a good job."

Norma Maroney of Lee, another member of the school board, said of Price, "I've always had a very good relationship with her. She did a lot for the school."

Monday, April 18, 1988 - Berkshire Eagle

Auction at Lenox Club will aid Berkshire Opera

LEE — The Berkshire Opera Company's third annual auction will be May 15 from 2 to 7 at the Lenox Club. Admission of \$5 each at the door will include tea, sweets and hors d'oeuvres. Drinks will be available at a cash bar.

A silent auction, where everyone writes his or her number and bid next to each item, will take place from 2 to 4. At 4, for about one hour, an auctioneer will take verbal bids for designated items.

A "gallimaufry" corner, comprised of a book shelf, bric-a-brac, jewelry and miscellaneous items that can be purchased without bidding.

Borrowing from the spirit of the English, a garden party will coincide with the auction, Rex A. Hearn,

director, says. "Ladies are invited to wear, if they wish, large picture hats and afternoon lawn dresses. Men may choose to wear blazers and cream trousers (suits and sport coats are truly welcome).

The afternoon will begin with an informal reception. When all auctioning sessions have concluded, the Avon Duo will provide dance music from 5 to 7.

Among items already donated or promised for the auction is a Cadillac stretch limousine with glass panel behind the chauffeur's seat, antique linens, oil paintings, Staffordshire porcelain, picnic baskets, silver and early 1900s' sheet music.

Donations may be made by calling the opera company, and pickups may be arranged.

He said town officials have expressed concern that Century Berkshire is planning an expansion into other areas while the original four towns are not fully serviced. He said consumers have contacted Hodgkins' office with other concerns, such as the cable company's program offerings.

With calls going to the towns, to Hodgkins and to others, "We want to nail down a formal complaint process," Carlow said.

In addition, he said it is not too soon to begin thinking about the next round of contract talks. Last year, Century Berkshire and the four towns reached a 10-year agreement retroactive to 1982. The agreement will expire in 1992.

Berkshire Eagle, Sat. April 16, 1988

State allocates \$3 million for county's rail lines

By William J. Carey
Berkshire Eagle Staff

LEE — It's official: The state is putting up \$3 million to rehabilitate, and possibly to acquire, Berkshire County's deteriorating railroad lines.

The news, which brightens the future of area rail service, was delivered yesterday by state Sen. Peter C. Webber, R-Pittsfield, and Rep. Christopher J. Hodgkins, D-Lee. As they have in the past, the two chose the symbolic setting of the Berkshire Scenic Railway Museum to make their announcement.

"We're here today to tell you that a long process, a very long process, has actually come to fruition," Hodgkins told the gathering of 12. "This is a great track. It's a high and wide line and it can be great for industry."

Two-year process

The process Hodgkins referred to began two years ago and picked up steam when the county allocated \$24,104 to conduct a feasibility study of rehabilitating the Canaan and North Adams branch lines of the Boston & Maine Railroad. The initiative paid off when the federal and state governments pledged a total of \$1.4 million to the cause.

Last September, the B & M confirmed widespread suspicions when it took the first legal step to abandoning the two branch lines, which have been described from an economic standpoint by the Berkshire County Regional Planning Commission as a "losing proposition." If the rail company follows through with that move, the state would acquire first rights to the tracks.

The latest appropriation, made possible through the transportation bond issue signed into law earlier this month, increases the state and federal kitty to \$4.4 million. According to Webber, that kind of money will enhance the freight potential of the two lines and possibly open them up to future passenger service.

The state has been carrying on "active negotiations" to purchase the lines, Webber said. But the talks have been slowed by the latest strike plaguing Guilford Transportation Industries, the B & M's parent company. The state "bureaucracy," Webber said, does not want to be construed as taking sides in the dispute.

'History of inattention'

But "with the history of inattention and neglect of these lines and the neglect of shippers, I think we've made a strong case to move forward," with the negotiations, he said.

According to rail experts who attended the conference, the B & M paid about \$500,000 when it purchased the two lines from Conrail in 1982. The state and federal money should cover the buy-back cost with plenty to spare for rehabilitation, Webber and Hodgkins said. It would then appoint another operator.

One potential operator was on hand yesterday, and has been a participant in many of the announcements concerning the Berkshire County lines. Asked if he would be interested, John R. Hanlon Jr., president of the Canaan, Conn.-based Housatonic Railroad Company, said, "If the opportunity presents itself, sure."

Also present were officials of the

few remaining shippers that use the two lines. Representing Pfizer Inc. were Robert A. Damiano, general traffic manager, Michael P. Sarkis, supervisor of traffic, and Janet R. Eichorn, traffic coordinator. Mead Corp. was represented by transportation coordinator Gilbert F. Malnati, chairman of the Sheffield Selectmen.

Richard Stover, president of Custom Extrusion in Sheffield and a volunteer for the Housatonic Railroad Co., said his company doesn't use the tracks but would consider it.

"You have to leave all your options open, especially in this competitive world," he said. "We have to maintain our infrastructure and this certainly is part of it."

B14 — The Berkshire Eagle, Saturday, April 16, 1988

Four emerge in search for school supt.

LEE — The final four candidates for the superintendent of schools' post have been announced.

They are: Henry T. Zukowski of Lee, principal of Lee High School; Paul D. Pharmer of Dalton, assistant superintendent of the Central Berkshire Regional School District; Margo W. Barnhart of Amherst, assistant superintendent of Amherst-Pelham schools; and John Gawrys Jr. of Medway, superintendent of Medway public schools.

Final interviews will be May 14, beginning at 9 a.m. at Lee High School.

The four were chosen Wednesday by a joint selection committee representing school boards from Lee, Otis and Tyringham, the three towns covered by School Superintendency Union 29. The committee interviewed eight candidates over three straight days.

"All of them were quite good," said Marion T. Clark of Tyringham, a member of the selection committee. "These four," she added, "really had some strong points."

Clark said the full nine-member school board, which is made up of three representatives from each town, has been urged to attend the May 14 round of interviews at the Lee High cafeteria. It is expected that the successful candidate will be named late that afternoon. The public is invited.

The candidate selected will succeed present Superintendent Clarence C. Truesdell, who resigned in January after the school board voted not to renew his three-year contract. That resignation takes effect in August.

In voting against the contract renewal, representatives of Lee and Tyringham found fault with Truesdell's leadership abilities and community involvement. Representatives of Otis opposed the vote, saying they were pleased with the Harvard-educated administrator.

Clark said the selection committee placed the salary of the job in the low \$50,000 range to keep it in line with other districts.

Eagle, Wed. April 20, 88

Driscoll to drop campaign for post as Lee selectman

LEE — Charles J. Driscoll announced last night that he is dropping his campaign for the job of selectman.

Driscoll, a one-term former selectman and chairman of the town's Democratic committee, lost to incumbent William D. Bean by 75 votes in last week's Democratic caucus. After the vote, he considered bucking the party and running independently.

However, Driscoll contacted The Eagle last night to say he would not challenge Bean in the May 16 annual election. He said he had already called Bean to say "congratulations — no contest."

Driscoll declined to elaborate on his reasons for dropping out of the race, saying he would comment at a later date. He did, however, hint of a possible run for county office.

"There's a lot of other jobs coming up in Berkshire County that are more advantageous to me than the selectman's job," he said.

Contacted for his reaction, Bean said he is "very happy," but declined further comment.

Ironically, it was Driscoll who encouraged Bean to run for selectman in 1985. The two men served together on the board until Driscoll was upset last year by political newcomer Diane P. Roosa, the town's second woman selectman.

When Driscoll left the board, Bean assumed the chairmanship and took a number of controversial stands. Yet there was relatively little mudslinging when the two met again in this year's campaign.

Rather than fighting each other, Bean said, "We were both running for the same job."



Donald B. Victor

Money For Rails

Rep. Christopher Hodgkins and Sen. Peter Webber announced at Sullivan Station in Lee April 15 that the state has allocated \$3 million to acquire and rehabilitate the

north-south rail lines in the county. The engines in the background are used for summer excursion trips by the Berkshire Scenic Railway.

Berkshire Eagle - Thurs. April 21, 1988 School budget defended at Lee hearing

By William J. Carey
Berkshire Eagle Staff

LEE — A public hearing to consider the School Committee's \$3.8 million proposed school budget drew more supporters than critics Tuesday night.

Of the 30 people in attendance, many defended the budget as proposed, and decried the reduction being sought by the Finance Committee. Those who would reduce the budget are threatening the quality of education in Lee schools, they said.

"If it's going to cost the taxpayers a dollar or two, stick with your budget," advised Edward M. "Buddy" Briggs, a town meeting representative.

The proposed budget of \$3,855,547 represents a \$405,442 or 11.8 percent increase over last year's appropriation. According to the School Committee, the bulk of the increase is due to projected salary hikes for teachers, administrators, aides, secretaries and other school employees, all of whom are still negotiating for pay. Salaries, excluding special education, custodial and

athletic pay, make up 60 percent of the budget.

Two new teachers

The committee is seeking \$40,000 for two new elementary school teachers due to a projected jump in enrollment, and \$34,290 for the upgrading of computers in the high school business department.

The budget contains increases of \$35,561 for higher costs of the special-education program, \$14,630 for transportation based on the contract with Fraser Sales Inc., \$12,992 for the addition of a ski program and other expenses, \$6,727 for a new computer and drapes in the superintendent's office, \$6,000 to bring substitutes' pay in line with that of other districts, and \$5,300 for a state-mandated asbestos removal study.

Last week, after seeing all budgets, the Selectmen voted not to request a \$25,000 override of Proposition 2½, which limits the amount a community can raise in taxes. Instead, the board instructed the Finance Committee to return the budgets to individual departments

for additional cuts. After further calculations, the proposed override was found to be somewhat less than \$25,000, Selectmen Chairman William D. Bean said Tuesday.

However, Finance Committee member Milton J. Gordon said his board is less concerned with an override than with the impact on the tax rate if all budgets are approved as they stand now. Theoretically, he said, the tax rate could increase from \$12.91 per thousand of assessed value to \$15.95.

Taxes crucial

In the past, Gordon said, the town has been able to rely on a reservoir of free cash to fund certain items. But that reservoir is nearly dry, meaning taxes will be a crucial source of income in the coming years. And the town is facing several large expenditures, including the construction and repair of buildings and expansion of the landfill and sewer plant.

With that in mind, the School Committee was asked to raise its budget by no more than 5.9 percent, or half the present increase. Gordon said most other town budgets were in that range.

"In a large budget such as this," he said, "I think you could find places to work on."

School Committee Chairman Judith L. Olds said her board would meet with the Finance Committee to undertake further cuts.

"My personal feeling is that when I go into the town meeting, I'd like to have a budget the Finance Committee would support," she said.

Jeopardize quality

However, others warned that further cuts would jeopardize the quality of education. High School Principal Henry T. Zukowski said the Finance Committee's budget ceiling would allow only minimal salary increases for school employees. He said the School Committee should enter the May 12 town meeting "with a budget that shows strong support for education."

School Committee member Joseph C. Savery agreed to review

the budget, but warned that if further cuts are impossible, "I tell you, I'll be on the floor looking for 11.8 percent."

Member Carol E. LePrevost, who is also a town meeting representative, said she would be reluctant to vote for a \$3 million plan to renovate the Civil War Memorial Town Hall and build a new emergency building if it meant robbing from the school budget. The building and renovation package is a separate item not included in the town budget.

"My feeling is, if we're going to cut back education for that, I'm not going to vote for it," LePrevost said.

Kindergarten overcrowding

While the main topic of conversation was budget cuts, Dawn Filio, president of the Parent-Teacher Organization, raised the possibility of a budget increase. Filio said parents are concerned with overcrowding at the kindergarten level and want the situation "watched closely" this year.

Zukowski promised to report to the School Committee immediately after the May 3 registration period, when enrollment figures are nailed down. The school system presently has four kindergarten classes staffed by one full-time teacher and two part-time teachers. The projected enrollment is 74 children, but if it tops 80, the School Committee will be under pressure to create a fifth class.

Berkshire Eagle, Fri. April 22, 1988

Biasin Welding named hazardous waste site, but cleanup begins

By William J. Carey
Berkshire Eagle Staff

LEE — The state has named Biasin Welding & Fabricating at 51 Railroad St. as one of 38 new confirmed hazardous waste sites. However, the business has undertaken cleanup work and should be upgraded to a "remediated" site, a state official said yesterday.

By terms of a 1986 referendum known as Question 4, the state Department of Environmental Quality Engineering is required to identify and clean hazardous waste sites. It publishes a quarterly list of confirmed and suspected sites.

List released a week ago

The latest version of that list was released last Friday. Along with other locations in Western Massachusetts, it names Biasin Welding as a confirmed site and two other Berkshire County businesses, the W.R. Grace & Co. Polyfibron Division of Adams and S & S Transmission of North Adams, as sites to be inspected.

With the new additions, the list now contains 844 confirmed sites, 675 suspected sites, 236 remediated or cleaned sites and 63 sites where investigations found that no further action was necessary.

According to DEQE spokesman Myles E. Brown, more than 60 percent of the confirmed cases involve the release of petroleum products into the ground. In the case of Biasin Welding, an underground gasoline tank was found last September to be leaking.

Ottavio J. Biasin, the owner of the company, could not be reached yesterday for comment.

terday for comment.

Brown said the company hired Tighe & Bond Engineers to assess the property, which is located near a bank of the Housatonic River. The offending tank and a relatively small amount of contaminated soil were removed under DEQE supervision.

"It didn't look like there was too much to be concerned about," Brown said.

The state then asked Tighe & Bond to reassess the property. Using monitoring wells, the firm reported that no significant contamination was found. After further evaluation, the site may be upgraded to the remediated list, Brown said.

He added that no penalties are involved as long as property owners take prompt action. "We don't penalize people for having accidents, and that's most often what the cause is," he said.

The Berkshire Eagle, Saturday, April 30, 1988 — B15

Lee Town Hall renovation, emergency center described

By William J. Carey
Berkshire Eagle Staff

LEE — The town's \$3 million plan to renovate the Civil War Memorial Town Hall and build a new emergency center was unveiled to an interested but reserved crowd Thursday at the Senior Center.

Proposed by a study committee of top town officials and community leaders, the plan drew several questions but little direct opposition from the crowd of 22. Yet a collective groan was heard when the committee estimated that \$1.50 or more would be added to the tax rate if the plan is approved.

One resident, James F. Nolan, suggested that the Massachusetts Turnpike and neighboring towns that benefit from Lee emergency services help foot the bill of the new building.

"It's wonderful to be nice," he said. "But we're talking big bucks here."

The biggest part of the plan calls for a two-level steel and concrete emergency building that would be attached to the south side of the Central Fire Station on Main Street. The building would become the new home of a combined police, fire, ambulance and communications complex.

Accommodate district court

Just down the street, the 114-year-old Civil War Memorial Town Hall would be renovated, a project that calls for a new stairwell, a lift for the handicapped and a new elevator. The middle floor of the building would be reserved entirely for the Southern Berkshire District Court.

And finally, with the freeing of space and shuffling of departments, the Airolodi Building on Railroad Street would undergo relatively minor renovations.

The \$3 million package is listed as Article 6 on the warrant for the May 12 town meeting. A means of funding it — by overriding the taxing limit of Proposition 2½ — will be presented in the form of a ballot

question at the May 16 town election.

Attorney Henry M. Donahoe, chairman of the study committee, defended the expenditure as a way to stave off the gradual loss of industry and the transformation to a tourist economy. He said the town must improve its municipal services to attract new industry.

The committee's architect, Edward L. Jendry of the Northampton firm Architects Inc., said that wooden timbers supporting the mansard roof of Memorial Hall are deteriorating and must be repaired whether the town approves the \$3 million package or not. Otherwise, he said, the top of the building may have to be razed.

Speaking of Memorial Hall, Nolan said the state should contribute if the second floor is to be reserved for the district court.

Why foot the entire bill?

"Why should Lee foot the bill for this?" he asked. "I think the taxpayers are a little concerned."

Donahoe said the state's policy is to negotiate rental agreements based on the premises. While defending the court's presence in Lee, he said the second floor of Memorial Hall could be used for other purposes if it departs.

"My feeling is that it's better to modernize our facility, keep the court here, and see what we can get in rent," he said.

William Orford, who owns the Morgan House directly across the street, said the town is faced with a "fundamental decision" to save the building, which lies in a recognized historic district.

But the "nutshell," said resident Thomas Mosca, is the impact on the tax rate. According to committee members, the building-renovation package would add \$1.50 to \$2 per thousand of assessed property value. In addition, another \$2 or \$3 would be added if town meeting representatives approve the fiscal 1989 budget intact.



Linda Burt creates a story time at Lee Library for her own child, 2-year-old Chauncey, who is a little young for the Lee Library story hour.



Thomas Martin, 10, at left, and his 13-year-old brother Tim take advantage of one of the floor-level lounges at the Lee Library.

Hitting the books

Photos
by
Joel Librizzi



Faces at a story hour reflect the preschooler's ability to become totally absorbed in the story. At the Lee Library, 15 children from 3 to 5 years old gather Thursdays at 10:30. Demand has made pre-registration necessary, and a waiting list exists. The hour includes three books, a game and a song. Top photo, Lee librarian Georgia Massucco, once a children's librarian in West Springfield, finds story hours appeal to youngsters and help book circulation.



Perennial fair

Berkshire Garden Center workers David Burdick and Cindy George prepare yesterday for the garden center's plant fair Saturday. The center is located on Route 102 in Stockbridge.

Erik Bruun

Gray power in Alford fails to knock out school budget

By Stephen Fay
Berkshire Eagle Staff

ALFORD — Though it was a spirited exercise of gray power, the Council on Aging last night failed to persuade voters at the annual town meeting to reject the school budget.

The council's motion to turn down the Southern Berkshire Regional School District's assessment of \$183,008 and substitute the amount assessed last year, \$161,885, failed on a vote of 24-28.

But if they were unsuccessful, it wasn't for lack of effort on the part of the elderly citizens.

Speaking against the budget were council members Susan Andersen

declined but costs had gone up. She and Paget also assailed the curriculum, which they said offered too many electives.

"Let us get back to the basics," Andersen said.

Paget, in a lengthy presentation complete with charts, said the council was not a group of bayonet-wielding citizens intent on infanticide. He was referring to a letter from Southern Berkshire Superintendent Thomas A. Consolati, in which Consolati cautioned the council not to take a "bayonet approach" in attacking the budget. He wrote that, though the target may be fat, the blade could sink into "a round of very tender children's

London and a former college teacher. What the council opposes is "unrestricted per-pupil spending."

Three Rs

He said the schools need to return to "the three R's" plus one G — geography. He said costs were up 8 percent over the past two years, though district enrollment since 197 has dropped from 1,397 to 949. He said the district is top-heavy with electives and offers too many "basic education."

Consolati replied that the suggested budget cut would result in districtwide trimming to keep the assessments in all five of the

Remember Mom

By Laurie Forfa

LEE IT'S MOTHER'S DAY 1988 and the Older Women's League (OWL) is continuing its campaign to improve the quality of life for our nation's mothers. OWL president Lou Glasse makes it very clear that "while some of America's mothers and grandmothers celebrate their special day blessed with prosperity, many others are not so fortunate. Instead of being supported by a net of safety, they are trapped in a web of poverty — their needs ignored by a society that has forgotten them."

In a recent appeal for political action, Glasse illustrated her concerns with the stories of Maria, a 48-year-old single parent who supported her four children on wages of \$4 an hour; of 63-year-old Sue, a homemaker whose husband died just short of retirement (his company pension died with him); of 72-year-old Irene who survives on a social security check of \$300 a month, and 59-year-old Connie who is facing the need for major surgery with no health insurance.

She also outlined the statistics OWL has compiled to demonstrate the scope of the problem in our country:

- 41 percent of elderly women are poor or near poor.
- Nearly 3 million non-institutionalized elderly women are disabled, requiring help with such daily functions as bathing, dressing and eating.
- One-half of all widows and two-thirds of all divorced women have no private health insurance.
- Four out of five women still have no access to pensions.
- 60 percent of women over 65 who

live alone have social security as their only income.

• The average woman today can expect to spend as many years caring for a dependent parent or spouse as she does in caring for a dependent child. More than one caregiver in four must quit her job or reduce hours in order to fulfill her unpaid caregiving responsibilities.

• • • • • OWL has planned three major events around Mother's Day '88 to draw attention to the needs of women. Lou Glasse and others will be presenting to members of Congress thousands of Mother's Day cards signed by OWL supporters, cards that list the problems described above, along with the actions OWL hopes the Congress will take, such as providing access to health insurance and long-term care, ending spousal impoverishment, ensuring adequate retirement income and increasing education, training and employment opportunities throughout women's lives.

OWL will deliver its Mother's Day report, entitled "Poverty Among Midlife and Older Women: Causes and Consequences" to all representatives and senators.

And finally, OWL will hold a major Washington, D.C., news conference May 4 to bring more national exposure to the plight of poor women.

Mother's Day seems an appropriate time to issue a call for action — to ask all of us as we go out to buy the traditional cards and candy and flowers to give some serious thought to what else we might do to secure some longer-lasting "gifts" for our mothers. OWL gives us some good ideas with which to start.

Laurie Forfa is director of nursing at Hillcrest Hospital. Mother's Day is Sunday, May 8.

Decision due today as search narrows for Lee school supt.

By William J. Carey
Berkshire Eagle Staff

LEE — School committees from Lee, Otis and Tyringham will meet today at 9 a.m. to interview the final three candidates for the superintendent of schools job. The interviews, which are open to the public, will be held in the Lee High School cafeteria.

The finalists, Paul D. Pharmed of Dalton, Henry T. Zukowski of Lee, and John Gawrys Jr. of Medway, will be interviewed at 9, 10:30 and 1 p.m., respectively. A decision on the new superintendent is expected by late afternoon.

The candidate selected will succeed Clarence C. Truesdell, whose contract expires in August and was not renewed. Truesdell has taken a leave of absence and is working on a trial basis for the Connecticut Department of Education.

The three committees make up School Superintendency Union 29, which has about 1,050 students in two elementary schools and one high school. The superintendent's salary is in the \$50,000 range.

22 applicants

Originally, 22 applicants turned in resumes for the job. A six-member search committee narrowed the field of candidates to eight, and after a round of interviews, to four. The lone woman finalist, 39-year-old Margo W. Barnhart of Amherst, recently dropped from the race after accepting a job in Colorado. She is the assistant superintendent of Amherst-Pelham schools.

Judith L. Olds, chairman of the Lee School Committee, said the three school boards will hold a caucus after the three interviews and make their recommendations to the union's joint board. That board consists of nine members, three from each committee.

Olds said questions will be fielded from the audience during the interviews. She said a new superintendent should be named by about 3 p.m.

Profiles of candidates

Following are biographies of the three finalists:

Paul D. Pharmed, 47, is assistant superintendent of the Central Berkshire Regional School District, which has about 2,200 students. He worked five years as an elementary

school teacher in Pittsfield and 10 years as a principal in Becket before taking his present job in 1982. He has an associate's degree from Berkshire Community College and bachelor's and master's degrees from North Adams State College.

Pharmed recently was chosen as one of 30 school administrators in the state to attend a leadership academy, where he will concentrate on curriculum development. He and his wife, RoseAnn, live at 926 South St. in Dalton. They have four children.

Of his reasons for applying, Pharmed said, "I wanted professional improvement and I feel my background in curriculum and vocational education will be an asset to Lee."

Zukowski, 62, is principal at Lee High School, where he also coaches the golf team. He has worked 17 years as a teacher and 19 as an administrator. He was appointed principal in 1984 upon the retirement of Robert Lucy.

Zukowski has a bachelor's and master's degree from Boston University and has attended courses in business management, administration and finance. He served as interim superintendent in 1985 and is acting now for Truesdell during his absence. He and his wife, Joan, live on Fairview Street in Lee. They have two children.

"I felt the position would need someone with a good understanding of the Lee school system," he said. "I want to be involved. I think I can do a heck of a good job."

Gawrys, 51, is superintendent of Medway public schools, which have about 1,800 students. He has worked previously as superintendent of schools in Tolland, Conn., assistant superintendent in Somersworth, N.H., and director of pupil personnel services in Plainville, Long Island.

Gawrys has a bachelor's degree from the University of Lowell, and a master's and doctorate from Boston University. He has studied Polish at Harvard University and done post-doctoral work at Hofstra University. He and his wife, Gail, live in Medway and have five children.

Gawrys said he enjoys the rural atmosphere of the Berkshires and was "very impressed" with the people he met at the first interview.

Open House At Learning Center

LEE — The Learning Center Pre-School will host an open house for summer and fall registration May 14 from 1 to 3:30 p.m. There will be balloons, children's activities, parent information and registration forms available.

The Learning Center offers care for infants and toddlers and children up to age seven. The program is available five days a week from 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. The center is licensed and has a trained staff.

In other Learning Center news, elementary students from St. Mary's, Lee Central and the center launched more than 400 balloons in recognition of Celebrate Children Week. Enclosed in each balloon was a message with a child's name and school on it, along with a phone number, asking the finder to respond. A number of calls have come in from the lower Hudson valley area of New York state.

Lee Emergency Funding Discussed

By Bonnie Oloff

LEE — Ken Labier, director of Ambulance Services, and Lazzaro ("Digger") Buffis, fire chief, met with the Selectmen on Monday to discuss the possibility of receiving additional monies for their services for use in building the proposed Emergency Service Center.

The town of Lee provides emergency services to Stockbridge, Tyringham and the Massachusetts Turnpike.

The fee from Stockbridge covers one-fourth of the operating budget for Lee's ambulance service. The town of Tyringham pays \$600 per year for the service and the Turnpike pays \$100 per call. Patient fees of \$60 are charged on top of this fee.

The discussion revolved around whether or not the town of Lee should ask Stockbridge, Tyringham and the Turnpike to contribute to the building of the Emergency Center.

Representatives at Lee meeting OK school budget

By William J. Carey
Berkshire Eagle Staff

LEE — Town meeting representatives last night approved the \$3.8 million school budget intact, defying a Finance Committee recommendation that would have cut it deeply.

The representatives broke at 11 without acting on a \$3 million building package that is being proposed separately from the overall town budget. That means voters will decide the fate of the package Monday at the annual town election. A single referendum question on the ballot seeks approval for an exemption from the taxing constraint of Proposition 2½ to pay for a long-term bond.

According to Town Counsel Jerome J. Scully, without that exemption "it really doesn't make any difference" what the representatives decide when they reconvene next Thursday. "Basically you have to have two affirmative votes for this to carry," he said.

45-minute debate

The \$3,825,283 school budget was approved after 45 minutes of debate pitting school officials against the Finance Committee. Leading up to the meeting, the finance board had recommended a \$171,000 cut in the proposed budget to keep it in line with percentage increases for other departments.

Committee Chairman Robert B. Trask praised school officials for doing a "conscientious job" in the preparing the budget and said his board was recommending an adjustment to the total amount only to keep taxes down.

School officials distributed informational sheets detailing per pupil expenditures and state reimbursements to bolster their case. The per pupil breakdown showed Lee ranking 9th of 10 school districts in spending on students. The other sheet revealed a net cost to the town of only \$1.6 million after tuitions and state reimbursements.

"We provide a rounded education for our students," said School Committee Chairman Judith L. Olds. "We're proud of our programs."

Adding his support was representative Henry G. Greiner, a longtime former School Committee member.

Of the \$171,000 proposed cut, he said, "There is no way they're going to do it by cutting athletics and by nickel and diming their budget. We're talking staff cuts and in a school system this size, that means program cuts."

Before the vote was taken, representative Martin H. Deely said he was "tired of hearing the old argument" that state reimbursements go straight to the town's coffers rather than back to the schools. "It's time to get the school more into the community," he said.

In an earlier action, representatives approved a \$342,699 Police Department budget that adds a ninth officer to the force, ensuring two policemen on every shift. The approval came after an impassioned plea by Police Chief Edward J. Finnegan, who asked the representatives to "protect your department, protect your people."

Forty-nine of 58 current representatives attended the meeting. It will continue next Thursday at 7:30 p.m. at the Central School.

Berkshire Eagle Fri.
May 13, 1988

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Berkshire Eagle, Fri. May 20, 1988

Lee voters reject motel tax, resolution on 'Star Wars'

By William J. Carey
Berkshire Eagle Staff

LEE — Following the lead of voters in Lenox and Williamstown, representatives at the annual town meeting last night rejected a controversial hotel-motel room tax.

After a slow start last week, the representatives concluded the annual meeting by acting on 32 remaining articles in 2½ hours. Thirty-eight of 60 representatives were present.

The room tax was the last substantive article on the warrant and kept an anxious group of local innkeepers waiting two nights. However, the verdict was delivered within 10 minutes when it finally did come up for consideration.

The article would have allowed the town to charge a tax of up to 4 percent for rooms in hotels, motels and lodging houses. The state already charges a tax of 5.7 percent on such facilities.

Speaking in favor of the tax was representative Francis D. Foley Jr. of Pease Terrace. Noting that he makes frequent business and family trips, Foley said, "I have always paid taxes everywhere I've been."

He said the town is losing more and more revenue sources "and this would be an excellent time to take this into consideration."

Speaking on behalf of innkeepers was William R. Wilson Jr., executive director of the Berkshire Visitors Bureau, the county's tourist-promotion agency.

His most convincing argument appeared to be a warning that town tax revenues may at some time be retained by the state. "You know about those round-trip Boston dollars," he said. "They don't come back with 100 cents."

The debate was cut off after just 10 minutes when the representatives moved the question, forcing an immediate vote. A loud sigh of relief was heard from the group of innkeepers when that vote killed the tax.

Other actions

Among other actions, the representatives:

- By a vote of 28-7, passed over a resolution stating that "we are not in favor of the militarization of space and do not want any development, testing and employment of [the] strategic defense initiative," otherwise known as "Star Wars." Had the resolution passed, the town would have sent it to Washington, D.C.

- Approved spending \$40,000 to construct a sidewalk on East Street from East Center Street to Reservoir Road. Representative Bonnie Viner said the lack of a sidewalk is dangerous for joggers, women with baby carriages and children. "Children need boundaries and to a child, the side of a road is not a boundary," she said.

- Confirmed an earlier vote to remove the position of fire chief from

the provisions of state Civil Service. The vote was necessary to endorse special state legislation that was adopted to that end. There was brief debate over the Selectmen's procedure for selecting a permanent chief. That process allows the board final approval of a top candidate.

- Approved \$4,000 for upgrading the road to the town beach on Laurel Lake, a cause that was championed as one of several "quality of life" issues by Representative Deidre Consolati, who chairs the Sandy Beach Committee. Last week, that committee won a regular budget of \$13,412, considerably more than it received in past years.

- Approved \$17,000 to revise town tax maps. Assessor John E. Loring said the new maps will help his board identify land that is not presently being taxed. "We feel it's unfair to people who are paying their taxes when there's people out there not paying taxes," he said. As a

result of that article passing, representatives approved \$3,000 for a permanent street-numbering system.

- Approved \$15,500 for an infiltration-inflow study that will determine at what points water is entering the town's sewer system. All told, Public Works Superintendent J. Peter Scolforo said up to 200,000 gallons of water a day may be working its way into the system and burdening the town's sewer plant.

- Approved spending \$3,500 to hire a shared conservation administrator with Lenox, Stockbridge and West Stockbridge. The administrator's salary will be funded by the state on a declining basis for three years. Conservation Commission Chairman Joan Clemons said the administrator will help process paper work, monitor developments and stop illegal dumping. "What we're talking about is the environment of our town," she said.

THE BERKSHIRE Eagle, Tuesday, May 17, 1988 — B9

Lee voters refuse to fund \$3 million building project

By William J. Carey
Berkshire Eagle Staff

LEE — The town's ambitious plan to renovate the Civil War Memorial Town Hall and build a new emergency center was torpedoed yesterday as voters rejected a means of funding it.

By a tally of 261 to 177, the voters denied an exemption from Proposition 2½, which limits the amount of money a town can raise in taxes. The exemption would have been needed to repay a long-term bond for the \$3 million plan.

Attorney Henry M. Donahoe, whose committee spent more than a year developing the plan, said he was "not surprised" by the verdict. He added that recent job layoffs in Pittsfield "were bound to have a dampening effect" because of the expense factor — estimated at \$2 on the tax rate. Many residents work in Pittsfield.

"I think the whole package at one time was quite a bit," Donahoe said. "The report is in the hands of the Selectmen. It's up to them to decide what to do with it."

Selectmen Chairman William D. Bean said he was disappointed with the vote. "I felt it was a good project — something that has to be done," he said. "Maybe we didn't get the message across."

One result of the vote, Bean said, is that the town may have to stall the state on upgrading jail cells in the police station, which is mandatory. He said the building-renovation package will definitely be added to the agenda of a capital outlay committee now being formed.

The plan envisioned a new emergency building next to the Central Fire Station on Main Street, extensive renovations to Memorial Hall just down the street, and a revamped Airolodi Building on Railroad Street. Its purpose was to modernize the town's emergency services, preserve Town Hall and reorganize town departments.

Originally, town meeting representatives were to vote on accepting or denying the plan, with funding approval coming later from the voters. But the representatives adjourned last Thursday without acting on the pertinent article. Now that the voters have killed the funding mechanism, the plan is officially dead.

The rest of the ballot was relatively unexciting, as major town offices had been sewn up in advance. There was a four-way race for three town representative positions in District 6. The winners were Frank A. Consolati of Debra Avenue, Francis D. Foley Jr. of Pease Terrace and John T. Kelly of 43 Laurel St.

A total of 468, or about 16 percent, of the town's registered voters went to the polls.

The results:

Moderator (Elect 1, 1 year)	
Joseph M. Toole*	353
Selectman (Elect 1, 3 years)	
William D. Bean*	366
Charles J. Driscoll**	1
Assessor (Elect 1, 3 years)	
John R. Loring	326
Assessor (Elect 1, 2 years)	
Edward M. Briggs	254
Town clerk (Elect 1, 3 years)	
John J. Nagle*	365
Town treasurer (Elect 1, 3 years)	
John J. Nagle*	355
School Committee (Elect 2, 3 years)	
Judith L. Olds*	318
Joseph C. Savery	305
Planning Board (Elect 1, 5 years)	
Joseph F. DuPont*	290
Housing Authority (Elect 1, 5 years)	
Franklin V. Sturgis*	360
Board of Health (Elect 1, 3 years)	
Margaret M. Wellspeak*	342
Constable (Elect 4, 3 years)	
John L. Piacquadio*	299
Pauline E. Pollard*	312
Edward J. Herlihy	227
John J. Wheeler	279
Community Development Corp. (Elect 3, 3 years)	
Francis D. Foley Jr.	301
Robert W. Lester	282
Milton J. Gordon*	295

* Denotes incumbent

** Denotes write-in votes.

Berkshire Eagle, Tues May 24, 1988



CLOSED HOUSE on Laurel Street may be renovated by its owner, the Lee Housing Authority. The building was closed several weeks ago due to its deteriorated condition.

William J. Carey

Lee housing agency planning to renovate four-family house

By William J. Carey
Berkshire Eagle Staff

LEE — The Lee Housing Authority is considering ways to renovate a dilapidated four-family house on Laurel Street that has been closed for several weeks. "There's a need for housing in this town, and we're the authority to do it," said authority Chairman Elizabeth Hodgkins. "We certainly wouldn't turn around and sell it to a developer."

The large wooden house occupies a prominent position on a hill overlooking the road into the downtown area. Its ground-floor windows are boarded up with plywood sheets.

Hodgkins said the building suffers from "all sorts of problems" and is "uninhabitable." She said it was closed after the last two families moved out several weeks ago.

Purchased for \$43,000

The authority purchased the house for \$43,000 in 1975. According to a newspaper report at that time, the purchase marked "the entrance of the Lee Housing Authority into the field of providing housing assistance to persons other than the elderly." Those who lived there qualified as low-income families.

Last November, the state auditor's office reported that it had found a number of "deficiencies" in the operation of the Lee and Stockbridge housing author-

ities, which at that time were administered jointly by Melanie M. Zanini. One of those deficiencies was the poor condition of the Laurel Street house.

According to the auditor's office, an inspection revealed "a variety of unsafe and unsanitary conditions," including cracks in the building's foundation, holes in wooden clapboards, rotted and warped window casings, water-damaged ceilings and floors, crumbling plaster walls, buckling interior wall panels, exposed electrical wiring and debris in the attic, cellar and hallways. Also found were "significant amounts" of lead paint.

Deficiencies addressed

The state said all deficiencies that occurred during Zanini's tenure were "addressed immediately and satisfactorily" by her replacement, JoAnne M. Walsh, and members of both housing boards. Zanini pleaded guilty in December of stealing \$11,902 from the two agencies.

Hodgkins said her board is considering ways to renovate the house and may conduct a feasibility study of the various options. The building is assessed at \$126,700.

"We have to decide what to do with it, and we'll probably decide in the very near future," she said. Of the board's desire to keep it, she said, "You just don't get property like that any more."

Berkshire Eagle, Sat. May 21, 1988

Lee woman, an aspiring firefighter, sues Fire Department; alleges sex bias

LEE — Would-be firefighter Sandra J. Buffis is taking her bias battle with the town's Fire Department into court, where she is seeking damages amounting to more than \$200,000.

In a civil action filed this week in Berkshire Superior Court, Spinney, 24, claims she suffered "emotional anguish and distress" as a result of being denied a post on the volunteer Fire Department. She is seeking \$100,000 on each of two counts alleging that her treatment by the department violated state law and the 1964 Civil Rights Act.

Town Counsel Jerome J. Scully yesterday declined to comment, saying he had not seen the suit. Selectman William D. Bean also declined to comment, citing pending litigation.

"I haven't heard about Sandy Spinney in a long time," he remarked. "This is a surprise."

Spinney's battle with the department started more than two years ago. In July of 1986, she told the Selectmen that her application for a firefighter's position had been rebuffed by acting Fire Chief La-

zzaro J. Buffis. According to Spinney, Buffis told her that no openings existed on the Central Fire Station roster and that no appointments would be made until a permanent chief was named. He also cited the lack of a women's rest room.

Spinney contends that several men later joined the force, even though some lacked the proper qualifications. The Fire Department rules and regulations state that she had been a victim of discrimination, obliging the town to either negotiate a settlement or submit to a hearing.

Spinney said yesterday that she and the town "couldn't reach an agreement" in negotiating a settlement. On the advice of her attorney, Done Rosencrance of Wilbraham, she withdrew the MCAD complaint and a similar complaint to the federal Equal Employment Opportunity Commission in order to pursue the matter in court.

Spinney works as an occupational therapy assistant at Bay State Medical Center in Springfield, as a consultant to the Berkshire County Association of Retarded Citizens and as a waitress at Diesel Dan's restaurant.

The Berkshire Courier, Thursday, May 19, 1988—3

Lee

Prop 2½ Override Fails In Lee

LEE — Voters at the annual election Monday failed, 177-261, to override the tax levy limits of Proposition 2½. Thus representatives of the annual meeting, which continues tonight, will have to reconsider plans for renovations to the town hall and construction of a new emergency center.

The project would cost \$3 million. In the election, William D. Bean was re-elected Selectman with 366 votes. Charles J. Driscoll, former Selectman who lost to Mr. Bean in the caucus, received one write-in. Judith L. Olds and Joseph C. Savery were elected to the school committee. Joseph M. Toole was elected moderator, John J. Nagle town clerk and treasurer, Joseph F. DuPont to the Planning Board.

Town Approves Budget

LEE — Representatives at the town meeting here May 12 approved a \$3.8 million school budget for fiscal 1989. The meeting will reconvene tonight. The annual meeting also approved a \$342,699 police budget, adding a ninth officer to the force.

Berkshire Eagle, Wed. May 23, 1988



Amy Clauss
Valedictorian



Katherine Burns
Salutatorian

Lee High School names valedictorian, salutatorian

LEE — Amy Clauss of 35 Circular Ave. and Katherine Burns of 190 West Park St. have been named valedictorian and salutatorian, respectively, of the graduating class at Lee High School. They will speak at graduation ceremonies June 11 at 2 at Tanglewood.

Clauss is a member of the National Honor Society and has received the Superintendent's Award for Academic Excellence, the Bates College Book award for outstanding juniors, the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute award for excellence in math and science, the Daughters of the American Revolution award for excellence in history, and a University of Paris certificate for proficiency in French.

Clauss also has been an active member of the school's peer leadership organization, the alcohol and drug abuse prevention team and the soccer, basketball and quiz teams. She is involved with the youth leadership commission of the United Way and the Winter Special Olympics. For two years, she has participated in the academic decathlon and the Math Olympiad at the University of Massachusetts.

Clauss is the daughter of Christine A. Clauss of Lee and Keith Clauss of Houston, Texas. She will attend Boston College next fall.

Burns is a member of the National Honor Society and serves as class treasurer. She has received the Daughters of the American Revolution Good Citizen Award and the Dartmouth Club of Berkshire County Book Award. She was selected to serve on the United Way Allocations Committee and has coordinated bloodmobile drives.

Burns has been an active member of the peer leadership program, the prom and yearbook committees, the band, the foreign language club, the math team and the soccer, bas-

ketball and softball teams. Last year, she was a member of the academic decathlon team.

For the past two summers, Burns has been a volunteer counselor at camps for the mentally and physically handicapped. She also worked as a volunteer for the Winter Special Olympics.

Burns is the daughter of Richard and Alba Burns. She will attend Stonehill College.

Lee Selectmen field complaints on rats, burning

By William J. Carey
Berkshire Eagle Staff

LEE — The Selectmen these days tackle a wide range of issues. But Monday's meeting brought the board back to its roots: mediating and resolving neighborhood disputes.

With 24-year-old Christopher A. Salinetti making his debut as chairman of the board, the Selectmen kept the peace as residents complained of rat infestation on Fuller Street and wood burning on Center Street. And those were only two items on a heavier-than-usual agenda.

"I think we had every neighborhood complaint going," said Salinetti, who succeeded William D. Bean as chairman after last week's town election. "It was so hot and I had a splitting headache."

Nevertheless, Salinetti survived the three-hour debut in fine form, resorting only occasionally to his gavel.

Following on the heels of letters and phone calls to the board, several residents of Fuller Street appeared Monday to complain about rats in their neighborhood. They said the rodents appear to be coming from an area occupied by Cabral's Auto Body off Housatonic Street.

Denial from Cabral

Owner Richard A. Cabral discounted those allegations, saying that his lot, which contains the auto business and a vacant house, is not the source of the problem. More probable attractions, he said, are the nearby Food-n-Fuel convenience store and restaurants on Housatonic Street.

"I'm certainly not breeding them — they don't like sheet metal," he said. On a lighter note, he added, "You could say they have their breakfast at Friendly's, their lunch at Burger King and their supper at the convenience store."

The Selectmen said they will ask Tri-Town Sanitarian Peter J. Kolodziej to conduct tests of the area and determine once and for all where the rats are coming from and what is attracting them. Based on those findings, they will hold another meeting in June with all parties concerned.

Next up was the long-standing problem of wood burning on Center Street. Robert and LuAnn Herring claim they are burning large fires

in their yard for cooking purposes; their neighbors claim they are burning construction debris illegally. The neighbors view the burning as hazardous and want it stopped.

Attorney Jessie Doyle Deely, who represented the Herrings, said her clients are legally entitled to an open air fire "so long as it is contained and for cooking purposes."

Burning planks

While Deely was speaking, Joseph and Alberta Sorrentino, the Herrings' neighbors, were saying, "We don't agree with you." They were backed up by acting Fire Chief Lazzaro J. Buffis, who said the Herrings are burning 4-foot wooden planks for fuel. "We can vouch that with anyone in the neighborhood," he said.

Robert Herring, who operates The Corner Store, said he is burning only "clean wood" and nothing else. "We don't use anything painted because you can't cook with it. It would kill you," he said. His wife complained that, "Every time I want to go outside to have a cook-out with my children, we have the police and fire department show up."

Selectman Bean said the neighbors seemed to be implying that "demolition debris is being burned under the pretext of cooking." That, he said, is illegal.

The board instructed the Herrings to keep their fires down and to stop burning wooden planks. They also advised them to clean their yard of construction materials in order to prevent fires from spreading.

Market in Lee

In another matter Monday, the board unveiled a letter it has written to Edward's Food Warehouse of Windsor Locks, Conn., in response to "numerous complaints from people in town that we need another supermarket."

The letter, written by Selectman Diane P. Roosa, seeks a "discussion on the possibility" of Edward's opening a market in Lee. It suggests that the Kay-Bee Toy & Hobby Shops Inc. warehouse on Route 102 would be an "excellent site" for the market. Kay-Bee is relocating to more spacious quarters in Pittsfield.

The town at one time had three supermarkets. It now has one, a Price Chopper.

Lee

Rats, Fire Chief Among Topics Monday

By Bonnie Oloff

LEE — Richard Cabral of Cabral's Auto Body on Houstonic Street appeared before the Selectmen Monday night to discuss the complaints of neighbors on Fuller Street that rats are coming from his property.

Mr. Cabral said he is in the process of cleaning out the property, which is for sale.

After much discussion, it was decided that the rats could be coming from several locations. The health department will look into the matter by visiting the various businesses in the area. A report will then be made to the Selectmen.

In other business, a letter was read at the Selectmen's meeting from Joseph B. Gervars of Minuteman Fire Volunteers in Ware.

Mr. Gervars is responsible for preparing and testing the applicants for the position of fire chief.

Study materials for the exam will be distributed at the Selectmen's office on May 28 at 11 a.m. Mr. Gervars will be there to answer any questions regarding the operation of the examination process.

The written exam will be given on July 30. The oral, fire problem and administration exams will be given at

different times on Aug. 6.

Diane P. Roosa, Selectman, has written a letter to Edward's Food Warehouse in Windsor Locks, Conn., inviting the firm to open a supermarket in the present site of the Kay Bee warehouse on Route 102.

Ms Roosa stated that she has received many complaints from shoppers in Lee about the quality of food at Price Chopper.

Adams Supermarket, which was the other food store in town, closed in 1984.

A letter was received by the Selectmen from the Berkshire Regional Transit Authority. The Authority made an error on the FY'86 and FY'87 cherry sheets and the town was overassessed by some \$800. This money was returned to the town.

Fire Department Sued

LEE — Sandra J. Spinney has filed suit in Berkshire Superior Court, alleging sex bias in the Lee Fire Department's membership practices. She is seeking \$200,000 damages in a civil action for "emotional anguish and stress" resulting from her being denied membership in the department in 1986.

— The Berkshire Eagle, Wednesday, June 1, 1988



PROUD BUILDERS of this contemporary house on Mountain View Terrace are students in the Lee High School house-building program. The house will be open to the public June 12 from 1 to 4 p.m.

William J. Carey

Lee High School house program is still building on its success

By William J. Carey
Berkshire Eagle Staff

LEE — The Lee High School house-building program has nearly doubled in size over the past few years and now has 11 houses to its credit.

The growth of the program from 18 students three years ago to 32 at the beginning of this school year has caused at least one problem: choosing recipients for the "outstanding" and "most improved" carpenter of

the year awards. Instructor John Reilley now holds a classroom competition to narrow the field.

"We've had too many good students, too many good carpenters," he said. "In the past, it was relatively easy to pick two."

Reilley attributes the growth to several factors, including a general upgrading of the program, word of mouth, and the fact that many parents themselves are involved in the building trades. In addition, he and Buildings and Grounds Superin-

tendent James D. Gralla have become active recruiters at school open houses and other functions.

"We're really trying to open it up to more people," Reilley said. "In essence, we're talking it up more."

The three-year program involves training in both academic and vocational subjects. In the second half of their senior year, many students are placed in paid work-study projects with local contractors. This year, three of 15 graduating seniors will continue their education in college, while several others have landed full-time jobs.

The program has produced 11 houses, the latest being a three-bedroom contemporary on Mountain View Terrace. Seven of those buildings have been sponsored by the Kiwanis Club, which pays for the land and building materials. Kiwanian William H. O'Brien said the latest house sold for "around \$200,000." It will be showcased for the public on June 12 between 1 and 4 p.m.

While the Kiwanis Club has been active on many fronts, the house-building program appears to be one of its favorites. Last night, the club threw a dinner at the Oak 'N Spruce restaurant and gave each senior \$150 worth of credit toward building supplies at local hardware stores. The year's outstanding carpenter, Todd Bush, and most improved carpenter, Tom McDarby, were given cash awards.

O'Brien said the club will sponsor a third house on Mountain View Terrace next year. "It's the only place we can find a building lot," he said of the street.

Berkshire Eagle - Tue June 7, 1988 Antiques dealer cries foul over decoy ducks

By William J. Carey
Berkshire Eagle Staff

LEE — An Albany, N.Y., man is crying foul over five decoy ducks he purchased for \$1,980 from the Caropreso Gallery on High Street. He claims the ducks are "absolute fakes" made to look like valuable antiques.

Robert Meringolo, who operates his own antiques shop in Albany, is attempting to bring a criminal complaint of larceny by false pretense against the local gallery, established in Lee in 1980. A show-cause hearing to determine the merits of the complaint will be held June 30 in the Southern Berkshire

District Court.

Meringolo said he purchased the wooden ducks and a leather carrying strap at an April 30 auction after being told they came directly from an "old lady's attic." In turn, he planned to consign them to the James D. Julia auction house in Fairfield, Maine, which holds twice-a-year decoy auctions.

Returned by mail

However, Meringolo said Gary M. Guyette, a partner of Julia's, returned the decoys to him in the mail after finding they were of low quality and made to look expensive. When gallery owner Louis E. Caropreso refused to refund the pur-

chase price, he made a complaint to the Lee Police Department and notified two area newspapers.

Of his decision to buy the decoys, he said, "a rainy night and artificial light is never good to judge something."

Contacted in Maine, Guyette said he "didn't try to analyze what had been done" to the decoys, which he identified as reproductions of yellowleg ducks. "All I did was look at them and I could tell they were fakes."

Guyette said decoy counterfeiting was at one time widespread. One way of making a decoy look older, he said, is to apply a coat of glue to

the body before painting it. When baked in an oven, the glue shrinks and causes the paint to crack. Other fakes are structurally unsound and not able to withstand normal use in hunting, he said.

In the case of Meringolo's decoys, Guyette could recall only that their bills were of low quality. As such, they are worth "no more than \$500 or \$600 — tops," he said. Had they been legitimate, they could have been worth up to \$5,000.

Gallery misled?

Guyette said the Caropreso Gallery itself may have been misled by whoever consigned the decoys in the first place.

"There's a real good chance that someone gave them the wrong story," he said. "If they're known as a reputable business, that's probably what happened."

Attorney Don C. Hunter of Lee, who represents the gallery, said Meringolo was involved in a "buyer beware" situation when he purchased the decoys. He said Louis Caropreso "makes no representations about articles for sale." As an auctioneer, or middleman, "He's a salesman and he's obligated to get the best dollar he can for it. That's his responsibility to the consignor."

Conditions of sale

Hunter said Caropreso has a policy of considering "any reasonable request" for a refund within 14 days of a sale. After that, he is obligated to pay his consigners for their goods. The conditions of sale are made known at each auction.

Meringolo said he asked for a refund three working days after purchasing the decoys. After receiving the decoys back in the mail, he said he went to the gallery and spoke directly to Caropreso. He said Caropreso at that point revised the story of where the decoys had come from.

Meringolo said he is pressing ahead with his complaint because of an "ongoing pattern of deception" at the gallery.

B8 — The Berkshire Eagle, Monday, June 13, 1988

Lee is urged to form historical committee

By William J. Carey
Berkshire Eagle Staff

LEE — One of the town's better-known residents has called on the Selectmen to form a permanent historical committee, saying that "we need to be more proud of our heritage."

The Rev. Walter S. Ryan, retired pastor of the First Congregational Church and a founding member of the Lee Housing Authority, made his request after learning of a state program that provides markers to place at historically significant points. In order to implement that program, a local historical committee is needed to identify the sites.

Ryan suggests an even greater role for the committee: He sees it coordinating individual efforts such as the renovation of the Congregational Church steeple and rehabilitation of the town green. He worked with others to have the downtown area named a historic district. He also has been a tireless advocate of the steeple renovation.

Former group disbanded

After he attended a meeting about the marker program, Ryan said, "It became apparent that Lee needs an active, well-informed historical committee. It needs to function bimonthly and keep abreast of all developments, including local, state and national preservation projects."

Lee is one of few communities in the state without a standing historical group. According to a number of residents, such a group was ac-

tive in the 1970s but stopped functioning sometime after the town's bicentennial celebration of 1977. Prior to disbanding, it commissioned the writing of "See All the People," a history of the town by Florence Consolati.

"It was kind of a volunteer outfit," observed Frank J. Kelly, owner of Kelly's Funeral Home. He said he was appointed chairman of the group in 1967 and still receives mail in that capacity.

'Vital to keep up'

Joseph M. Toole, president of the Toole Insurance Agency and for many years the town's moderator, said an effort was made to reestablish the committee after the bicentennial.

"We sat around and talked about town history," he said. "We wanted to see where it would get us. But nothing really materialized."

Those interviewed were enthusiastic about Ryan's initiative. Betty L. Dennis, who served as the town's head librarian for nearly half a century, said, "Walter is right; I think there should be a committee. To me, it's vital to keep up what has been given to us."

Selectmen Chairman Christopher A. Salinetti said his board will discuss Ryan's request tonight.

"I'm definitely in favor of setting up a historical committee," he said. "There's a whole bunch of things this committee could do — not just for tourists, but to find out what's hidden in Lee and take advantage of it."

Berkshire Eagle - Wed. June 15, 1988 Lee man may buy two trailer parks

By William J. Carey
Berkshire Eagle Staff

LEE — The neighboring Brookside and Mountain View trailer parks on Bradley Street may be purchased by a local man.

Louis J. DiGrigoli of Cape Street informed the Selectmen on Monday that he is negotiating a sale with the owner of the two parks, Fusco Corp. of New Haven, Conn. He said he would follow through with the purchase only if he can reorganize the parks and institute new rules.

Last year, tenants took exception when Fusco announced a \$20 increase in their rents, claiming the company had done little to maintain the parks. Specifically, they complained of malfunctioning septic systems, exposed electrical wires, broken mail boxes and deteriorating roads.

At a meeting in November, a Fusco representative agreed to make the repairs. However, the Tri-Town Health Department lodged a complaint in court when progress lagged on the septic systems. The case is still pending.

Recently, tenants of another Fusco property, the 199-lot Wheel Estates Mobile Home Park in North Adams, dropped their plans to purchase it after failing to muster enough support. An outside buyer reportedly has offered \$2.6 million for the park.

DiGrigoli owns the 10-lot Twin Spruce trailer park on Route 20.

He said he has already spoken with the tenants of Brookside and Mountain View about his negotia-

tions with Fusco. The two parks contain a total of 32 lots.

Before he agrees to purchase them, DiGrigoli said he wants to establish a stricter set of rules. He said tenants appear to be content with the presence of unregistered vehicles, an excessive number of pets, unauthorized additions and lighted signs. New rules would have to be approved by the state, which regulates trailer parks, he said.

"Basically, the place is in real rough shape," he said of the general area. "What it needs is a lot of maintenance and a good set of rules."

Also, DiGrigoli said he wants to reorganize the two parks and add four lots, bringing the total number to 36. For that, he would need a special permit from the Planning Board to extend a non-conforming use of the property. Trailer parks are restricted by town bylaws enacted after the two parks were established.

DiGrigoli asked the Selectmen to endorse his special permit application, saying the reorganization plan will be forthcoming next week. But the board declined to make a recommendation without first seeing the plan.

North Adams

Tot Time at Western Gateway Heritage State Park has been canceled this week. The program will resume June 23 at 10 a.m. in the Shipper's Office, Building 4.

Page. Mon. June 20, 1988



Frank V. McCarthy

PRINCIPAL of St. Mary's School in Lee, Sister Barbara Price, left, was feted yesterday by parishoners in observance of her 18 years of service. At right is sister Ann Rita O'Keefe, who retired three years ago as a teacher but returned as librarian and is retiring again after a total of 10 years at the school. In center is the Rev. Howard W. McCormick, St. Mary's pastor.

Departing school principal is honored by Lee parish

LEE — An estimated 325 persons turned out yesterday at a farewell party for Sister Barbara Price, who has resigned as principal of St. Mary's School after 18 years.

Her resignation is effective at the end of the school year, which closes today. A member of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Chabery, a French order based in Hartford, Conn., Price said she had no immediate plans but will probably return to teaching. She taught five years at St. Mary's and was principal 14 years, serving one year in both capacities.

She was presented a gold watch by William J. Maroney, president of

the parish council, and a gift of money by William D. Morrissey on behalf of the Knights of Columbus, Berkshire Hills Council. She was also presented a certificate from the state House of Representatives by Christopher J. Hodgkins, D-Lee, a member of the parish. Earlier, she had received a plaque from the Lee School Committee.

The party was hosted by members of the Council, St. Mary's School Advisory Committee, choir, sodality and bingo committee.

B10 — The Berkshire Eagle, Thursday, June 30, 1988

Lee meeting reps narrowly defeat funds to fix roof

By William J. Carey
Berkshire Eagle Staff

LEE — For lack of a two-thirds majority, representatives at a special town meeting last night failed to approve repair funds for the rotting roof of the Civil War Memorial Town Hall.

The representatives barely missed, voting 20-12 in favor of borrowing \$200,000 for repair of the roof and its supporting beams. Any measure to borrow requires a two-thirds majority — in this case, 22 votes.

Three remaining articles were passed, including a transfer of \$24,500 from available funds to cover a deficit in the Police Department.

Town Clerk John J. Nagle said 34 of the 60 representatives attended the meeting, which was delayed by half an hour until a quorum was reached. A simple majority of 31 representatives is needed for a quorum.

\$1 million sought

The Memorial Hall article originally sought \$1 million for renovations to the entire building. And that figure was culled from a proposed \$3 million package that included a new emergency services building on Main Street and reorganization of the Airoldi Building on Railroad Street. The package was rejected by voters last month.

Representatives last night immediately questioned how the town had arrived at the \$1 million figure.

Edward L. Jendry of the Northampton firm Architects Inc., who was hired to perform a study of the renovation, said half the cost was projected for building code improvements such as a new elevator, wheelchair lift and fireproof stairway. He estimated that repairing and stabilizing the roof, along with restoring its decorative trim, would cost about \$180,000.

"If you want to save that building,

you've got to do something with that roof and structural system or you're going to lose it," he said.

The \$1 million article was trimmed to \$100,000 and then doubled as the debate continued for an hour.

Representatives appeared to support the repairs, but were skeptical of how the town proposed to pay for them. Two options discussed were floating a bond or borrowing from the stabilization fund.

"I don't think anybody here knows how much money we have or where we're going to borrow it," said representative James F. Nolan. "We've got about seven diversified opinions here. It doesn't make any sense."

Representative John E. DeVarennes argued that the town's newly formed Capital Outlay Committee should examine the request. The debate culminated when he asked Jendry whether the building would "fall down" if the town waited another year.

"Probably not," replied Jendry. After a few years, "it will just rot away and eventually collapse."

Critical of deficit

The Police Department won its transfer, but only after a scolding by Finance Committee Chairman Robert B. Trask. The transfer was needed to cover a deficit in the 1987-88 budget resulting from an increased workload and unanticipated overtime.

Trask said he wanted to know what caused the deficit, when it first was detected, why town boards had not been notified and what the department is doing to prevent future deficits. He later called for tighter monitoring of all town budgets.

"Unfortunately, we can't predict when we're going to have a fatal accident or a narcotics raid or any number of things that translate into overtime," said Officer Joseph Buffis, who represented Police Chief Edward J. Finnegan.

Page. Tues. June 28, 1988

Lee Selectmen seek state funds for lake study

By William J. Carey
Berkshire Eagle Staff

LEE — The town will apply for a state-funded feasibility study of cleaning and managing Laurel Lake, pending joint approval from Lenox.

The Selectmen last night instructed Chrystal A. Shelley of the Berkshire County Regional Planning Commission to proceed with a pre-application form under the state's Clean Lakes program. The form must be cosigned by Lenox, which shares the lake, and submitted to the state by Friday.

Shelley agreed to seek a signature from Lenox Selectman John J. Pignatelli today.

In addition to Shelley, the board met with William S. Enser Jr. of Berkshire Enviro-Labs, a consulting firm, Conservation Commission Chairman Joan D. Clemons and Deidre M. Consolati, chairman of the town's Sandy Beach Committee.

'Optimal' means

Enser said the one-year feasibility study would determine "the optimal way to manage the lake," and would include a plan of attack for the perennial problem of weeds. However, he warned that Lee and Lenox "better be prepared" to spend thousands of dollars annually to implement the management program, even though the state would pick up much of the cost.

He said the town should count on several years elapsing before any work actually takes place.

Undeterred, Selectmen Chairman Christopher A. Salinetti said, "It's apparent that something has to be done." He said the way to address the situation is by "long-range planning on the lake."

Clemons said the town should meet with Lenox to chart the future course of the lake. Although the Selectmen are interested in buying weed harvesting equipment similar to the county's, she said weed-

harvesting alone "is not the answer to the problem, it's a stop-gap measure."

The board agreed to schedule a meeting with Lenox and the Kimberly-Clark Corp., which owns water rights to the lake.

In other business, the Selectmen declared a "health emergency" at the town landfill on Woodland Road due to the breakdown of the compacting machine. The declaration was necessary to obtain permission from the state Department of Revenue to appropriate emergency funds.

Rent compactor

The board said \$10,000 must be appropriated to rent a compactor and repair the existing one. Finance Committee member Milton J. Gordon said the appropriation will be "no problem — there are existing funds."

Also, the board took no action on a pay raise requested by Cemetery Superintendent Edward Thomas III. Thomas, who replaced his father as superintendent in 1969, asked to have his hourly rate increased from \$8.55 to \$10, the same amount he makes working for the Highway Department.

The Selectmen declined to adjust the salary without studying those of other town employees.

Town Counsel Jerome J. Scully advised the board that bylaws may be added and amended at any town meeting by a simple majority, with the exception of zoning changes, which require a two-thirds majority.

The board had sought Scully's opinion after tenants of the Brookside and Mountain View trailer parks asked to have a rent control article considered at a future meeting. Initially, the Selectmen said such an article could only be acted on at the annual town meeting in May. Even with Scully's ruling, the tenants have missed the deadline for Wednesday's special town meeting.

Eagle, Wed. June 22, 1988

Tenants of Lee trailer parks air gripes, seek rent control

By William J. Carey
Berkshire Eagle Staff

LEE — Seeking rent control for the second time since last fall, tenants of the Brookside and Mountain View trailer parks on Bradley Street got advice but little encouragement Monday from the Selectmen.

The 15 tenants, who waited 90 minutes for an opportunity to see the board, were advised that the best way to present their case would be to gather petitions to place an article on the annual town meeting warrant. Since the annual town meeting takes place in May, they will have to wait another year.

'Strong legal action'

However, the board did agree with Selectman William D. Bean's promise to bring "strong legal action" against the owner of the two parks if it is found that work has stopped on sewer improvements, as alleged by the tenants.

The two parks are owned by Fusco Corp. of New Haven, Conn. As with other Fusco-owned parks in this area, they are for sale. Louis J. DiGrigoli of Cape Street, owner of the Twin Spruce trailer park on Route 20, told the Selectmen last week that he is considering buying both Lee parks.

Last fall, tenants sought rent control when Fusco announced that it was raising rents by \$20 to \$160 per lot. However, at a meeting with the Selectmen in November, the rent issue was overshadowed by complaints of failing septic systems, exposed electrical wires, broken mailboxes and other problems. A Fusco representative, David E. Machesney, at that time agreed to rectify those problems.

The Tri-Town Health Department later brought a complaint in District Court when progress lagged on the septic systems. The case is still pending.

"The bottom line is, ever since we've been there, we've been fighting for something to get done," said Jean Jaquins, a 14-year tenant. "The rent keeps going up but nothing gets done."

The Selectmen advised the tenants to petition for an article on the next town meeting warrant. Chairman Christopher A. Salinetti said the board is "not willing to initiate" rent control on its own. The tenants also were advised that rent control could be discussed only at the annual town meeting because special meetings are for emergency situations. The board did agree to

verify that with town counsel.

"We were under the assumption that something was going to get done last November and nothing was," said Joan Murray, another tenant. She said the group had no idea what the procedure was to place an article on the warrant.

Other business

In other business, the Selectmen met with engineer Robert G. Brown of Accord Diversified Consultants and two trustees of the Berkshire County Savings Bank, Robert MacKenzie and Jed Lipsky, on plans to complete work at The Village at October Mountain. The bank announced last month that it was taking control of the village from developers Philip M. Manger and Robert H. Garrity.

"We are here to complete all deficient and defective work in regards to October Mountain," said MacKenzie. He said the bank has "an enormous interest to protect here in its reputation as well as its assets."

Bean advised the three that all town conditions must be met "until we even talk about" four buildings that are not covered in the town's 1985 special permit. The buildings contain 16 condominium units.

Town manager

Also, Consultant David A. Booth, a University of Massachusetts professor, submitted in draft form a special act creating a town manager form of government. The full-time manager would answer to the Selectmen and be the town's chief administrative and budget officer, earning \$40,000 to \$45,000.

Acceptance of the new form of government would require approval from the Selectmen, state Legislature and voters — probably at the annual election of 1989, Booth said. The Selectmen will meet with Booth again next week to discuss any changes in the proposed act.

Assessor John E. Loring told the board to expect some repayment of taxes to the Tennessee Gas Co., which has appealed its local assessments for the past several years. In a letter to the board, Jane Malme of the state Department of Revenue said her agency believes the company has a "strong case" to present to the appellate tax court. The company's property in Lee is assessed at \$2.1 million, Loring said.

Berkshires Week

May 15, 1988

THE BERKSHIRE EAGLE MAGAZINE



Love Stories

*Marriages
that stood
the test of time*

Trekking with Llamas

Calendar of Events

Calvin Trillin

Milton Bass

Molly Gordon

Guide to dining,
art galleries and
bed & breakfast
inns

Berkshires Week

May 15, 1988

THE BERKSHIRE EAGLE MAGAZINE



Love Stories

Marrages that stand the test of time

Freaking with Llamas

Calendar of Events
Café de l'Espresso
Milton Mass.
Multi-Calendar
Guide to dining
at galleries and
bed & breakfast
inns

Cover: Eileen and Frank Kelly of Lee.
Photo by Joel Librizzi. Design by David LeClair.

Love Stories

Continued from Page 8

Marco Island. This year, the whole family threw them a 50th wedding anniversary extravaganza that required several roles of Eileen's film before it was over.

"The anniversary kind of crept up on us," she said. "Now we're shooting for 75."

It is hard to believe that Eileen Fitzgerald was able to resist Frank Kelly's striking blue eyes, but she did nonetheless. It had something to do with their first date, which began harmlessly enough with a movie.

But Frank somehow convinced her to go to the Pillars in New Lebanon — a notorious speakeasy — and then proceeded to keep her out all hours.

It was 1930 and Eileen was a nurse at St. Luke's Hospital, where the Sisters of Providence held a tight rein over their nurses. Petrified that the nuns would hear of her indiscretion, Eileen resolved never to go out with him again.

"But I did," she laughs.

Both raised in full-blooded Irish families, Eileen C. Fitzgerald and Frank J. Kelly of Lee seem the proverbial match made in heaven. She is still beautiful, without a trace of gray hair. Though Frank is a little thinner on top, his eyes are as blue as ever.

Once she recovered from her initial hesitations, Eileen decided she liked everything about her future husband. Nevertheless, the couple didn't marry for eight years, agreeing instead to wait out the worst of the Depression by working to help their families along.

For his part, Frank was positive about his chances with Eileen. "I was always told that if you want to see what your future wife will be like, look at her mother," he said. "And Agnes Tully Fitzgerald was a fine woman."

While Eileen worked as a nurse,

Frank assumed his duties at the Kelly Funeral Home and the former M. J. Kelly Furniture Store, a family business owned by the Kelly's since 1895. A graduate of Notre Dame University, Frank drove his bride out to South Bend, Ind., in 1938, where they were married in the university's Log Chapel.

Seven babies came along in nine years, filling up their home on Cliffwood Street. Indeed, Eileen said she always wanted a big family and would have gladly had 15.

"The kids have kept us young," she said, adding that there was never a dull moment in the house. "I thrived on them — still do."

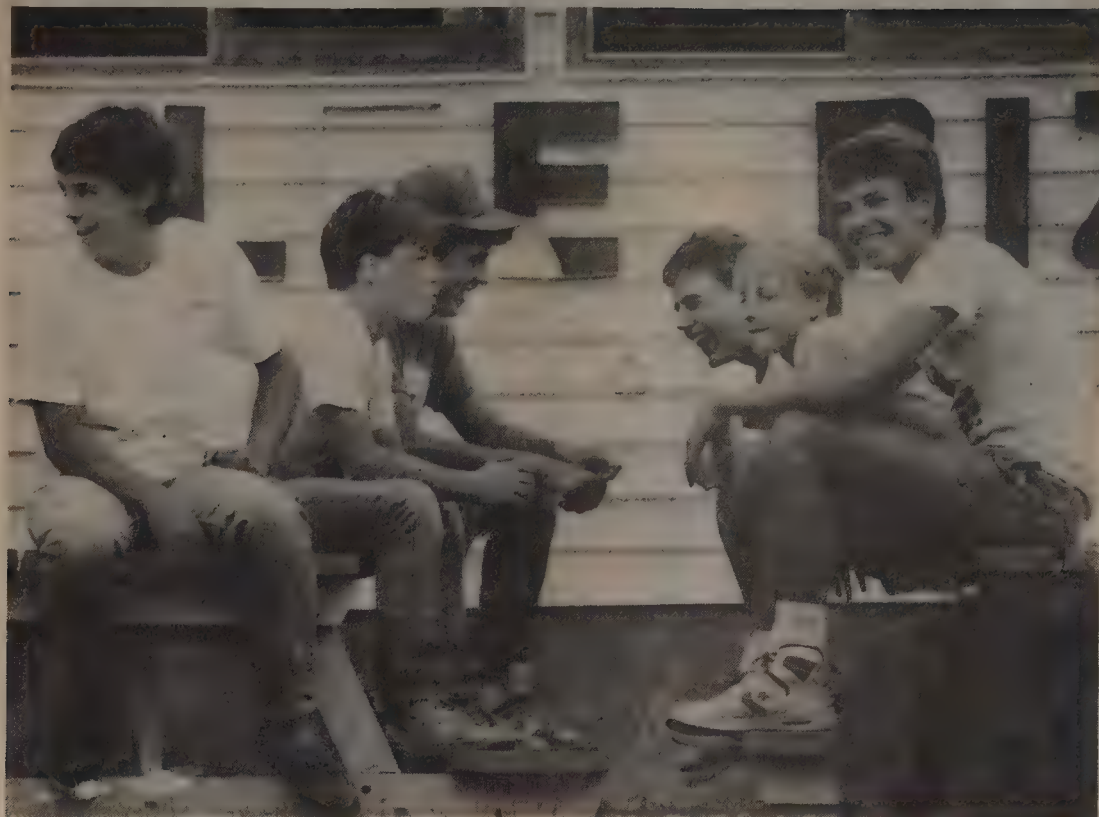
It was about this time that Eileen began indulging her love of home movies and photography, capturing every charming moment in the lives of her family. Her movies have all since been made into tapes for their VCR and "they are priceless, just priceless," she said.

A charter member of the Berkshire County Historical Society and the Berkshire Family History Association, Frank's passion is the past. He has an outstanding collection of ancient firearms and other antiques — including treasures his mother brought from Ireland.

Like the Stephenses in Richmond, the Kellys also suffered an irreplaceable loss when their son Shaun died of cancer in 1986. His courage throughout the ordeal touched the entire town of Lee.

Every winter for the last 15 years, the couple has vacationed in Florida at

(Continued on Page 10)



Mark Mitchell

HANGING AROUND in front of Lee Pizza, next to the town's youth center, teenagers bear out their complaint of having nothing better to do now that school has ended.

Lee trying to overcome problem of teenagers with nothing to do

By William J. Carey
Berkshire Eagle Staff

LEE — School's out for the summer, and once again, the town's younger citizens have hit the streets for entertainment.

On any given night, you can see a virtual drove of teenagers cruising the one strip they feel familiar with: Main Street. Those without cars stick to the sidewalk, finding fraternity on the stone stoop of the local pizza house, or beneath the lighted sign of a convenience store. Some retreat to the shadows of buildings to experiment with drugs and drink.

The summer onslaught comes and goes; the kinks normally are worked out by residents, town officials and the youngsters themselves. Recently, however, the issue of kids in the street came to a head. Appearing before the Selectmen, Charles W. O'Brien of East Street, a parent, accused the police department of harrasing the kids, a nearby homeowner of verbally abusing them, and shopkeepers of taking their money and sending them off. O'Brien was particularly upset that his son and a handful of others were issued citations by police for "trespassing after notice."

"I'm not saying the kids are blameless," he said. "They're kids, they do stupid things."

Meeting called

The complaint had one immediate impact: the Selectmen have called a meeting of the Lee Youth Association, police, youngsters and the general public Thursday at 7:30 at the Senior Center. Beyond that, the complaint raised a fundamental question. How well is this proud and solidly middle-class town taking care of its own?

The youngsters tell a common story. On a recent night, more than 20 were perched on the stone wall in front of St. Mary's Church. They had settled there, they said, after being told to move away from Lee Pizza, just down the street. Few other places are available. Outdoor basketball at the youth center on Academy Street stops at 8:30 because neighbors want it that way. The town park in front of the First Congregational Church is off limits at 9. There are plenty of video outlets, but no theater, arcade or dance hall.

"We would like something in our age bracket . . . any place we could go without being bothered," said Katie Daoust, 16. Her friend, Jessie McManmon, was clear on what she wanted — a "dance club."

When there is nothing better to do, the teens said they make the rounds, stopping at Lee Pizza, Convenience Plus, Friendly's, Burger King and other places. Keith Thompson, 16, said concerts and other activities are available, but only "if you have a car." One youth half-seriously replied "drink beers" when asked about things to do.

Adults have mixed feelings. Selectman William D. Bean, observing the youngsters from a distance, said they are going through a stage of adolescence that everybody goes through, one that gives them too much time and little to do.

Youth Director David C. Canterbury, who worked in Springfield before coming to Lee, said, "They're at that in-between, rough age when they'd just as soon be by themselves, out in the street socializing. Recreation-wise, that's a problem with kids in that age group everywhere."

Police Chief Edward J. Finnegan said, "Years ago, there was more strictness in the home — kids didn't run the street." He said his officers take action to move the youths only when a complaint is received, or when something happens.

"They come out of the youth cen-

ter and what's there to do?" he asked. "As long as they're not raising hell, there's nothing wrong with it."

Selectmen Chairman Christopher A. Salinetti, who at 24 is not far removed from the youngsters, agrees with that policy.

"If they're not doing anything wrong, leave them alone," he said. "Let them walk the streets, let them walk all over town if they want to. Six or seven years ago, I hung out on those streets and I know what we did. We didn't do anything."

Some adults feel the town should do more for its children. O'Brien criticized the fact that other than paying Canterbury's salary, the town does little to help the Lee Youth Association, which administers the youth center. The LYA relies on fund-raisers to bolster its budget.

'Quality of life'

At the annual town meeting last month, Representative Deidre M. Consolati rated the budget for what she called "quality of life" items such as parks, playgrounds and beach facilities. Of \$7 million in proposed expenditures, she said, only about \$100,000 fell under the quality of life category.

The School Committee, defending an 11 percent increase in the school budget, distributed statistics showing that Lee ranks 9th of 10 area school districts in per-pupil spending. The new budget was approved intact.

Many of the items Consolati defended also were approved, including \$40,000 for a new sidewalk on East Street, \$17,000 for the town beach — which had fallen into serious disrepair — and \$7,500 for resurfacing the town tennis courts. However, Consolati feels more of a commitment is needed. She said the town has taken a "developmental focus" that emphasizes material progress over people.

"What I envision for this town is a good recreation system, one that is well-maintained so that the kids in this town feel they're worth something," she said.

Sports complex

One such system, a multiple-use sports complex off Maple and Greylock streets, has been proposed by the Kiwanis Club. However, progress has been slowed by the high cost of the project and the scarcity of government grants. Until the complex becomes a reality, the aging youth center on Academy Street remains the only organized meeting place.

"Unfortunately, we're the alternative, and the older kids choose to come here because of supervision," Canterbury said. "I would say there isn't a lot for

Should Lee teens hang out on Main St.? Adults divided

By William J. Carey
Berkshire Eagle Staff

LEE — About 40 parents, teenagers and community leaders held a wide-ranging discussion on the subject of kids in the street — and how townspeople are dealing with them — last night at the Senior Center.

The discussion, hosted by the Selectmen, produced no immediate solutions. But it served as a surprisingly civil forum for parents to air their gripes and trade ideas. Few teenagers were present, and only one spoke.

Meeting with the Selectmen last week, Charles V. O'Neill complained that teenagers congregating on Main Street are being hounded by police, residents and shopkeepers. His son and a handful of others have been given citations by police for "trespassing after notice."

'Bum rap'

Last night's discussion touched upon that incident, what the teenagers really want, how their parents and others are coping with them, and what the town can do to prevent problems.

O'Neill suggested that townspeople and police are guilty of "overzealousness" in dealing with groups of teens.

Others said the Lee Youth Association is getting a "bum rap" for incidents that happen in the vicinity of its building on Academy Street. The police, in responding to calls, often use the youth center as a reference point, they said. And since many residents listen to police scanners, they are getting the impression that only troublemakers use the building.

"Why don't we leave [the teenagers] alone?" O'Neill asked. "They are there for us to see."

Teens that are discouraged from congregating on Main Street often resort to "drinking parties" in nearby Otis, he noted.

Carol E. LePrevost, a member of the School Committee and Youth Commission, said, "I think the town of Lee has to make a decision. Do you want them in the streets or in the woods?" She said townspeople must change their ways and treat the teens "like citizens."

Officer William Tierney, who represented the Police Department,

was asked to describe typical acts of mischief and who is complaining about them. He said the department receives an average of 10 calls on the weekend, mostly from the owner and employees of Lee Pizza and its neighbors. Other calls originate from Cumberland Farms and residents near Lee Liquors, he said.

Minor vandalism

The complaints range from "loud noise and swearing to a small fight — kids pushing kids around," Tierney said. There have also been minor acts of vandalism, such as broken mailboxes, street signs and park railings.

He said an incident in which teenagers were told to leave the LYA building has been "taken out of context" by their parents. He said the department responded to four calls that night, and each time the youths retreated behind the LYA fence.

"It was getting to be a game," he said, "so we put a stop to it."

Emmanuel Katritsis, owner of Lee Pizza, denied that his complaints are unfounded. He said older teens in cars "use bad language," drink beer and sometimes use drugs in the pizza house parking lot, which is adjacent to the LYA building. The culprits, he said, are "14 and up."

Selectmen Chairman Christopher A. Salinetti said, "I will have to agree that I have seen people drinking there and smoking dope."

Among the solutions discussed were opening the school gymnasium

to dances and other activities, appointing a special police officer to walk Main Street, arranging a meeting between teens and police, and simply leaving the youngsters alone if they are behaving.

Kathleen P. Hall, a teacher, said, "Until this town is ready to invest some money in our youth, you're going to be making a mountain out of a molehill. You can't just say, 'Don't hang out.' They have to hang out. They are social beings. They are learning to be independent."

Mahoney is selected for education seminar

FALLS VILLAGE, Conn. — The Institute for Development of Educational Activities Inc. and the Kettering Foundation have announced that John L. Mahoney, principal of Housatonic Valley Regional High School, was recently selected as a member of the 21st I/D/E/A Academy of Fellows summer program.

Mahoney, nominated by other administrators, is among the 1 percent of outstanding American educators to receive this honor and participate in a weeklong seminar July 10 to 16 at Loretto Heights College in Denver.

During the week, a faculty of nationally prominent educational leaders will address the fellows and meet with them in small groups to consider effective leadership for educational issues.

Affordable housing panel locates two sites with potential in Lee

By William J. Carey
Berkshire Eagle Staff

LEE — The town's affordable housing committee has identified two sites for potential development of low-cost housing.

Bruce Garlow, an aide to state Rep. Christopher J. Hodgkins, D-Lee, said the committee has applied for a \$12,000 grant to study building sites on Maple and Church streets. Both are town-owned.

Hodgkins is the chairman of the committee. Garlow, who represented him at yesterday's meeting,

said, "We have a sense we will probably get this money."

In addition, the state is reviewing Lee's application to be designated as a housing partnership community, Garlow said. That would open the town to a range of programs offered by the state and Massachusetts Housing Finance Agency, a quasi-public organization.

Playground site

Garlow said the Maple Street building site is on the west side of a 60-acre parcel targeted by the Ki-

anis Club for a sports and recreation complex. The area is large enough for about five building lots.

The Church Street site is a playground and covers about 3.6 acres. If it is developed, Garlow said, the playground would be moved to an adjacent lot that is restricted as to development.

He said the \$12,000 would pay for a consultant who would assess the two sites for building, develop a request for proposals from developers and review those proposals. The committee has not yet determined whether owner-occupied or rental housing should be developed.

Local preference

Whatever is built would fall under the "affordable" category, and Garlow assured a questioner that state programs allow for local residents to be given preference. The role of the committee, he said, is that of a "facilitator" bringing together the state, town and developers. Any building project would be subject to review by pertinent town boards, he said.

Two other projects where affordable housing has been proposed are still in the planning stages, Garlow said. Bruce W. Reid of Lenox, who plans to build 162 units of market-value and affordable town houses off Golden Hill Road, is expected to meet with the committee next month.

The other project is being proposed by Sanford Bookless of Pittsfield, who hopes to rehabilitate the space above Johannson's 5 & 10 on Main Street into 16 apartments.



CAROPRESO GALLERIES on High Street in Lee is being offered for sale for \$400,000. The building formerly was used as a church.

William J. Carey

Caropreso Galleries for sale; owner's asking price is \$400,000

By William J. Carey
Berkshire Eagle Staff

LEE — Caropreso Galleries at 136 High St., formerly a Methodist church, is being offered for sale for \$400,000.

Owner Louis E. Caropreso said yesterday he is looking for larger quarters and is negotiating for a building in Lenox. He declined to specify that building.

The former Methodist church, complete with a bell tower and ornate stained-glass windows, was built in 1899. Closed in the 1970s, the church and adjoining parsonage were sold to Caropreso in 1980 for \$58,000. The parsonage, which was

renovated into a home for the Caropreso family, is not for sale.

Before the church changed hands, the School Committee was eyeing the property with intentions of converting it into a playground for the neighboring Central School. Henry T. Zukowski, who takes over as superintendent of schools later this summer, said the option of buying the property now "has not entered into any discussion at any time." Instead, school officials are studying the possibility of building a new playground at the rear of the school.

Special permit obtained

Before opening the auction gallery, Caropreso had to obtain a special permit from the Planning Board. The permit allowed for a non-conforming use, the gallery, in a residential zone. It required, among other things, that Caropreso build a parking lot capable of handling 90 cars and limit the number of auctions to 24 a year.

A new owner interested in opening a business would have to go through the same permit process. However, Caropreso said the east side of High Street, where the gallery is located, may be rezoned in the future to allow for businesses. The other side of the street already is zoned for business.

Finding the church in a deteriorated state, Caropreso undertook considerable renovations. They included new heating and wiring systems, new bathrooms and a restored ceiling, floors and wooden pews. The former Sunday school space was remodeled into an office and preview gallery.

According to the assessor's office, the current assessed value of the building is \$152,500.

While the structure was adequate at first, Caropreso said he has in-

creasingly been pinched for space and is using a neighbor's barn, his own garage and a truck to store auction items. In 1982, he obtained permission to build an addition to the back of the building but decided against it because it would have cut into his parking space. He said the gallery has "really been on the market since then."

Yesterday, a "For Sale" sign was evident for the first time. The building is being offered by Roberts & Flint Realty of Lenox. Caropreso has received a number of inquiries, but he declined to identify any potential buyers.

"Actually, I hate selling it," he said. "I love this building."

Lee gets nibbles in supermarket search

By William J. Carey
Berkshire Eagle Staff

LEE — The town's search for a second supermarket appears to be bearing fruit, at least in terms of interested parties.

Selectman Diane P. Roosa last night said she has arranged two meetings: tomorrow with Harry's Super Market of Pittsfield and tentatively next week with a representative of the Big Y chain from Springfield. She said other chains also may be interested.

"I'm excited about it," said Roosa, who has taken charge of the supermarket campaign.

The town's existing supermarket, Price Chopper, has been the source of continued grumbling over the price, quality and quantity of its goods.

New York parent company

The market's parent company, Golub Corp. of Schenectady, N.Y., answered each charge last year in an interview with The Eagle. It said prices may differ slightly because of the low volume of business in Lee as compared to Price Choppers in Pittsfield and Lenox. It said produce that is stored in Schenectady is delivered to all markets without preference.

However, the supermarket chain last year turned down an invitation to meet with the Selectmen to discuss complaints. This year, the search for a competitor began anew when Kay-Bee Toy & Hobby Shops Inc. announced that it is departing its warehouse on Route 102. The warehouse is owned by a realty trust and leased to the toy company. Town officials want to fill it with another supermarket.

In addition to Harry's Super Market, Roosa said a representative of Kay-Bee's real estate firm, Hart Corp. of Southampton, Pa., will be present tomorrow at 7:30. That representative, she said, indicated that two "shopping centers" have looked at the warehouse. He said he was not at liberty to identify those parties.

The Selectmen also have contacted Edward's Food Warehouse, A & P and Stop & Shop about moving to Lee.

In other business, trustees of Berkshire County Savings Bank presented an application for an amended special permit to make improvements and complete work at The Village at October Mountain. A public hearing on the application was scheduled for Monday, Aug. 8 at 7:30 p.m.

The bank announced in May that it was taking control of the condominium village from developers Philip M. Manger and Robert H. Garrity. As part of that takeover, it promised to repair faulty drainage utilities and complete 16 condominium units that were started with

expired permits.

Along with other improvements, Trustee Jed P. Lipsky of Monterey last night presented plans to strengthen and rebuild a large retention pond that has been a source of ongoing criticism and concern. The bank also proposes to build 22 feet of additional storm drain to lessen the burden on a line currently handling most of the runoff from above the development.

Under the bank's application, two more units, a resident manager quarters and office, would be added to the village. Lipsky said the bank is willing to pay for a consulting engineer to oversee the work on behalf of the town.

Also last night, the Selectmen said no provisions were made to inspect the Roberts Bros. 3-Ring Circus which stopped in Lee for a two-day stand. The board scheduled a meeting next week with the sponsoring agency, St. Mary's Drum & Bugle Corps., for an explanation.

Chairman Christopher A. Salinger said the Fire Department and requisite inspectors were notified just before the circus opened Friday and "the show went on."

Also, Selectman William D. Bean announced that a ground-breaking ceremony has been scheduled Monday at 11 a.m. for the town dog pound on Route 102. Bean said the U.S. Navy Seabees have agreed to do the construction work over weekends, though not necessarily consecutive weekends.

Lee Selectmen still shopping for new supermarket in town

By William J. Carey
Berkshire Eagle Staff

LEE — The Selectmen, apparently unsuccessful in their attempt to woo an Edward's Food Warehouse to Lee, will expand their search for a new supermarket chain.

Selectman Diane P. Roosa said last week the board will send letters to other chains, including the Big Y and Stop & Shop, in an effort to bring a second supermarket to town. The board's chief enticement is the Kay-Bee Toy & Hobby Shops Inc. warehouse on Route 102, which the company plans to sublet or sell.

Kay-Bee is building a bigger warehouse off West Housatonic Street in Pittsfield. The Lee building is being leased from the Kay-Bee Realty Trust, an arrangement that expires in 1992. Kay-Bee officials could not be reached for comment on the status of the building.

Complaints

At one time Lee had three grocery stores but now has just one: the Price Chopper supermarket off Main and West Park streets. More than a year ago, the Selectmen asked the Community Development Corp. to begin searching for a new market, claiming they had received numerous complaints from dis-

gruntled shoppers over the price and quality of Price Chopper goods in Lee.

At that time, Sue Ann Ritchko of the Golub Corp., Price Chopper's parent company in Schenectady, N.Y., said the supermarket chain "is not discriminating against the people of Lee." She said it welcomes competition.

The search for that competition began anew when Kay-Bee announced it was departing Lee. In May, the Selectmen wrote First National Supermarkets Inc. of Windsor Locks, Conn., which owns and operates Edward's Food Warehouse and Finast supermarkets. In the letter, the board said Kay-Bee's warehouse would be an "excellent site" for a new market.

Roosa said the idea to seek an Edward's Food Warehouse was suggested to her by Price Chopper customers. "When I'm standing in line waiting," she said, "I always hear that we need another supermarket in town."

She said she does most of her own shopping at the Price Chopper in Lenox, which is considerably larger. In Lee, "I can never find what I want and it's too crowded," she said.

Gail M. Shelton, public relations director for First National Supermarkets, said Lee's letter was referred to the company's market-research department.

She said the company is planning to build or remodel 20 new markets over the next four years, but is concentrating its expansion in Connecticut and New York. It currently has 64 stores in its eastern division, including markets in Springfield and Westfield.

If the market-research department finds a Lee supermarket would be profitable, "we certainly would consider it," Shelton said. But she cautioned that, "At this point in time, we're not considering anything in that area."

Undeterred, Roosa said the Selectmen are drafting letters to several other supermarket chains.

Big Y interested in Lee market

LEE — Another supermarket is eyeing Lee.

Charles L. D'Amour, senior vice president of sales and marketing for Big Y Foods Inc. of Springfield, was in town last night to discuss the widening search for a second supermarket. He asked a few questions and left a small promise.

"I'm here to say we have an interest," he told the Selectmen. "We'll take a look at it."

The Selectmen, responding to what they say are numerous complaints about the local Price

Chopper, have contacted several other supermarkets about the possibility of moving here. Last week, they met with the Nichols family of Harry's Super Market in Pittsfield, the first to express an interest.

The board originally asked supermarkets to consider using the Kay-Bee Toy & Hobby Shops warehouse on Route 102, soon to be vacated by the company. However, it appears the sprawling warehouse is too big for a supermarket, and the search is on for another site.

D'Amour last night said the Lee-Lenox-Stockbridge area is "kind of a hole in the market for us." When his company heard from Lee, he said, it decided to pursue the matter.

The Big Y chain has 23 markets and a 24th under construction in Holden, he said. In Berkshire County, it has stores in Pittsfield, Great Barrington, Adams and North Adams.

For his own information,

D'Amour asked the board if the Kay-Bee warehouse is the only available site, if the size of the supermarket is an issue and if the town has performed any shopping studies.

"We would want to do [a study] to try to ascertain our needs," he said. "We like to tailor our stores to the markets we're in."

If the Big Y did locate in Lee, D'Amour guessed that it would build a market with 30,000 to 32,000 square feet of space, about twice the size of the Price Chopper. He said it would not be interested in the Kay-Bee warehouse, though someone from the company has taken a look at the building. The warehouse is reportedly being considered by a manufacturing firm.

Due to the mechanics of refrigeration, D'Amour said, it is easier to build a supermarket from scratch than to convert an existing building. All of the present Big Y markets are newly built, he said.

Owners are delinquent if dogs still unlicensed

ADAMS — Dog owners who have not licensed their pets are now considered delinquent. Dog Officer Anthony A. Valotta reports that state law requires annual licensing by June 10, and that owners in violation can be taken to court.

Licenses are available at the Town Clerk's office between 8:30 and 4 weekdays. Town Clerk Paul Hutchinson said a list of known dog owners who have not licensed their animals will be turned over to the dog officer Aug. 1, when Valotta will initiate legal action against residents.

Hutchinson says that all dogs over 3 months old must be licensed, and that owners must have proof that animals over 6 months have been immunized against rabies. New license fees set by the County Commission are \$10 for unfixed animals and \$4 for a spayed female or neutered male.

Hutchinson says the license for neutered males is new this year and adds that owners must present proof of neutering before that license can be issued.

Rep. Conte helps to break ground for pound in Lee

By William J. Carey
Berkshire Eagle Staff

LEE — Demonstrating that no matter in his district is too small, U.S. Rep. Silvio O. Conte, R-Pittsfield, yesterday joined town and county officials in breaking ground for the town's municipal dog pound off Route 102.

Small-time, yes, but the dog pound may never have reached fruition without Conte's influence and the participation of the U.S. Navy. One person who can attest to that is Selectman William D. Bean, a proponent of the pound from three years back. Without Conte and the Navy Seabees, Bean said yesterday, "it couldn't have been done."

The story ostensibly began when town meeting representatives overturned an earlier defeat and approved \$34,000 for the wood and cement dog pound on Sept. 18, 1986. Up until then, the town relied on Valley Veterinary Service to shelter strays for a nominal fee, an arrangement that still exists.

The decision of where to build the pound, initially a stumbling block, was rendered by a specially appointed seven-member selection committee. It chose the site of the town's sewer plant and salt storage shed off Route 102.

Search for builder

But the battle of the pound was just beginning. Even with a construction budget and plenty of town-owned real estate, the Selectmen had nobody to build the building. The Lee High School building program, an early favorite, was booked solid with projects.

The board was willing to use outside contractors, but was unable to pay the prevailing wage required by state bidding laws. After some delay, it managed to obtain a waiver from the state and proceeded to put the project out to bid. But there were no takers.

"You know how the construction trade is," said Bean. "People were so busy, they didn't have time for a dog pound."

A former Navy man, Bean then turned to the Seabees, a naval reserve group known for its building feats. Thus, another chapter began.

Chain of command

"It went through the whole chain of command," Bean said. "From the Pentagon all the way down."

While the Seabees were interested, they could not act without authorization. And each time one level of the command said "no," Bean placed a call to Conte's office. His persistence paid off when the commander of the reserve naval construction battalion in Lenexa, Kan., said "yes."

Yesterday, a victorious Bean played master of ceremonies at the ground-breaking. He was joined by Conte, Selectman Diane P. Roosa, Public Works Superintendent J. Peter Scolforo, County Dog Officer Eleanor Sonsini, Francis D. Foley Jr. and Leah Gangell of the site selection committee and Capt. John R. "Dick" Warner of the 7th Reserve Naval Construction Unit based in Davisville, R.I.

Warner said the Seabees hope to "cut the ribbon next spring," though they have been given 18 weekends to complete the project. The Department of Public Works will install the foundation.

Conte, visibly enthusiastic about his latest accomplishment, donned a "Lee Dog Officer" baseball cap and presented the town with a picture of his Brittany spaniel, Primo, and a poem he wrote after the dog's death. It read, in part, "I've lost a dear and gentle friend/the truest friend I've known/companion and pal for 14 years/through good and bad we've grown."

"With the dog days of summer," Bean said later. "It couldn't have happened any better."



William J. Carey

DEDICATING A DOG POUND yesterday were U.S. Rep. Silvio O. Conte, left, and Lee Selectman William D. Bean. The pound will be located off Route 102.

At Lee's supermarket customers speak out; many are harsh critics

By William J. Carey
Berkshire Eagle Staff

LEE — A canvass of shoppers outside the Price Chopper, this town's only supermarket, reveals a number of complaints and a few compliments about the goods and services offered within. Many shoppers applauded the town's continuing effort to attract a second supermarket.

The reactions of 10 shoppers interviewed yesterday ranged from severe to sympathetic.

One elderly woman who declined to identify herself said of the Price Chopper: "It stinks. Everything is all over the aisles, you can't find anything and the floors are dirty."

Another woman, Cindy Menesio of Avs-

terlitz, N.Y., said, "I have no complaints about it." Of the market's prices, a frequent complaint, she said, "I find them about the same as other places I've been to."

The Selectmen claim they have received numerous complaints from disgruntled shoppers over the price, quality and quantity of Price Chopper products.

At one meeting, Selectman William D. Bean, who was recently re-elected, said, "I just finished a campaign and that was one of the biggest topics. You wouldn't believe how many elderly people wanted another

Neighbors complain about Scenic Railway

By William J. Carey
Berkshire Eagle Staff

LEE — The Berkshire Scenic Railway Museum and residents of Canal Street are involved in a neighborly spat.

Meeting last night with the Selectmen, museum president John W. Herbert defended the volunteer operation against complaints of errant tourists, loud whistles and diesel fumes. He criticized the residents' tactic of distributing letters and appealed to the board to resolve the situation.

Residents, meanwhile, said they are fed up with the museum's attitude and are taking the offensive.

The museum operates train rides from its rented quarters off Canal Street on Friday nights and weekends. Since it was formed five years ago, it has grown increasingly popular as a tourist attraction. According to the neighbors, it has become too popular.

In a letter to The Eagle presented last night, a group of 11 residents wrote in part: "What began as a few train buffs working on one locomotive occasionally has become a 'business' with a ridership of over 10,000 people from Memorial Day to Halloween. Every weekend and every holiday, all summer long, our neighborhood is inundated with people."

Noisy trains

The residents told the Selectmen that tourists park on their property and that noisy trains wake them up and blow diesel fumes into their homes.

Herbert said the residents have a right to complain, but he objected to their tactic of distributing the letter by flagging down motorists and pinning it to windshields. He also expressed a fear that vandals would attack the trains as a result of reading the letter.

"This letter implies that we haven't been good neighbors," he said. "These issues are to be expected when you live next to a railroad."

Specifically, Herbert said the museum has posted "no parking" signs, altered the start-up time of its trains and installed quieter whistles. He said the trains are bound by railroad rules to blow the whistle at each crossing and departure.

Although the museum itself is moving next year to Lenox Dale, Herbert said it still wants to board passengers at Lee.

Residents defended their method of bringing attention to their complaints.

"The reason this letter came into being is the non-responsiveness we got from the museum," said John J. Murphy of 30 Canal St. "What happened to us is we were running through mud and nothing was happening. We decided to do this and make some waves."

Murphy's wife, Carole, said the museum is treating the neighborhood as if it is a "joke."

The residents got a sympathetic reaction from Selectman William D. Bean, who said he once took the Boston & Maine Railroad to court over similar problems and won. The railway museum operates on the B & M line.

Unannounced visit

The board decided to make an unannounced visit to the museum and, from that, to make recommendations to resolve the situation. They speculated that one recommendation would be to have the museum post a parking attendant before each train ride.

"I see several problems here," said Chairman Christopher A. Salinetti. "I'm sure if the board makes an on-site inspection, we can make some recommendations."

Lee church, N. Adams library win building restoration grants

The First Congregational Church in Lee and North Adams Public Library have won building restoration grants from the Massachusetts Historical Commission.

The church will receive \$45,000 toward the repair of its spire, which has been the object of a lengthy fund-raising campaign. The library will receive \$40,000 for the second phase of repairs to its roof. A total of 33 projects, about one-third of the total applications, were awarded \$1.6 million in grants.

Representatives of both Lee and North Adams said yesterday they had asked for more money, but were pleased with what they got. The grants must be matched by local funding.

The award to the church was announced by Rep. Christopher J. Hodgkins, D-Lee, who had fought to maintain historical funding as a member of the Ways and Means Committee. The funding was jeopardized by the state's recent financial crunch.

Hodgkins said the grant will help

make the 131-year-old church the "crown jewel" of a widespread restoration effort taking place in the nearby town green, which is owned by the church. The green may be rehabilitated through another state program.

"For many of us, what that church represents is the focal point of our community," he said.

John E. Arnold, co-chairman of the Church Historical Preservation Committee, said the state money will supplement close to \$50,000 already raised through community fund-raisers and donations. Much of that original money has already been spent on stabilizing the spire, which dates back to 1918.

The design of the restoration is being done by Hill Engineering of Dalton; the construction by Landmark Rigging of Florence.

Arnold said the committee must raise about \$12,000 more by terms of the matching agreement with the state. He said it had asked for twice the grant amount — the full restoration is expected to cost \$120,000 —

but is pleased nevertheless. Last year, the church's application was turned down by the state.

"We're pretty tickled about the \$45,000," Arnold said. "It's going to help us a long way."

The Rev. Walter S. Ryan, who has been instrumental in the fund-raising campaign, said he will conduct a slide presentation at the church Friday and Saturday at 11 a.m. titled "How the job is being done financially and physically." The public is invited.

Ryan praised contributors to the restoration, saying, "I'm sure they'll all be gratified we have this big boost."

Michael F. Nuallie, housing and project coordinator for the city of North Adams, said the \$40,000 will be used for second-phase repairs to the library's mansard roof, dormers, cornice and flashing. Last year, the city received a similar grant for repairs to the main roof.

"We're very excited we got it," Nuallie said of the latest grant. "It makes sense to complete a project."

B6 — The Berkshire Eagle, Thursday, July 14, 1988

Manufacturer reportedly eyeing Kay-Bee facility

By William J. Carey
Berkshire Eagle Staff

LEE — A manufacturing firm is interested in taking over the Kay-Bee Toy & Hobby Shop warehouse on Route 102, according to a real estate agent representing the toy company.

Mark J. Duclos, regional manager of Hart Corp., a Philadelphia-based industrial real estate firm, last night declined to identify the manufacturer during a special meeting with the Selectmen. He said the company is considered a potential "buyer" as compared to several other "shoppers" that have expressed an interest in the warehouse.

The intent of the half-hour meeting was to explore options for locating a second supermarket in Lee. Among those in attendance were three members of the Nichols family, owners of Harry's Super Market in Pittsfield. Robert Nichols Sr. said the family is definitely interested in

opening a medium-sized market in the area.

20,000 square feet

However, Nichols said Harry's is looking for about 20,000 square feet of commercial space, about one-fifth of the space available at the Kay-Bee warehouse. The discussion then branched into opposite directions of how to fill the warehouse and find space for a new supermarket.

More than a year ago, the Selectmen began the effort to entice a second supermarket to compete with the Price Chopper off Main and West Park streets. The effort was renewed when Kay-Bee announced plans to depart its warehouse for a larger facility in Pittsfield. Town officials envisioned the building as an excellent site for another supermarket or multiple use shopping complex.

The warehouse is owned by a realty trust and leased to the toy company. Duclos said Kay-Bee asked his firm to begin marketing the building more than a month ago. He said the company wants to sublease the building as a whole, to one tenant, but would consider a sensible alternative plan with several tenants.

Duclos said the interested manufacturer visited the warehouse two weeks ago and is scheduled for another tour. The firm in question would occupy the whole building, which offers 96,000 square feet of floor space and a mezzanine level of offices. Two other manufacturing firms have expressed an interest in occupying half of the building, and two supermarkets have taken a look at it, he said.

Country Curtains?

Several town officials contacted after the meeting said they had no idea what company Duclos is talking about. One official said Country Curtains, the mail-order curtain company based in Lee, may be interested in opening a manufacturing operation. However, that could not be confirmed.

Duclos said the size of the building makes it unrealistic for a supermarket, unless the market plans to open a warehouse-distribution center. The building is located a few minutes from the Massachusetts Turnpike.

The Selectmen promised to provide the Nichols with a list of potential sites for a supermarket in cooperation with the town's Community Development Corp. and Greater Lee Chamber of Commerce. Another supermarket, the Big Y chain, is scheduled to meet with the board Monday.

Eagle, Fri. July 22, 1988



LEE PRICE CHOPPER is a source of both criticism and content for shoppers who use it. Town officials are actively searching for a second supermarket.

William J. Carey

Lee Price Chopper 'hot topic'

Continued from Page B1
supermarket."

Bruce Garlow, who fields complaints for state Rep. Christopher J. Hodgkins, D-Lee, said the supermarket is a "hot topic."

Many of the shoppers interviewed said the Price Chopper's stock is limited compared to other bigger markets, and often difficult to track down. They said the market's seven check-out lanes are usually crowded and sometimes understaffed. Some said they shop in Lee only for con-

venience, and take their regular business elsewhere.

Among those markets that appear to be benefiting from displeasure with the Lee market are Price Chopper in Lenox, Big Y in Great Barrington and Guido's Fruit & Produce in Pittsfield.

"They seem to have a lot of things we don't have," said Cindy Frink of Lee. "One time, I came to get diapers and all they had was large. I needed medium, but I had to buy them."

Frink hit upon what might be the

essence of the Lee Price Chopper's problems. "They just don't have enough stock," she said. "It's just not big enough."

Another woman who declined to give her name, said, "I go shopping here and I have no problem. But then I go to the Super Stop & Shop and I say 'Wow, we're missing out on something.'"

Beatrice Katz, a resident of the state of Florida who is vacationing in Lenox, said, "I really think they could use another market, especially one where there's a little more personal service."

Vinie Masi of Becket, a cashier at the Price Chopper, observed that shoppers are quick to complain, but they continue to use the market. On one point, the market's general layout and product placement, she defended her employer.

"They come here every week, they should know where everything is," she said. "I don't know why they complain so much."

As a result the complaints they have received, the Selectmen have contacted several other supermarkets about the possibility of moving to Lee.

Two of those, Harry's Supermarket of Pittsfield and Big Y Foods Inc. of Springfield, have said they are definitely interested. Adding teeth to the search is the town's Community Development Corp., which will meet Monday to discuss possible locations for a new market.

Lee VFW seeks assistance, says dogs do better than vets

The Berkshire Eagle, Saturday, July 23, 1988 — B5

By William J. Carey
Berkshire Eagle Staff

LEE — Members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Post 893, are struggling to build a new headquarters on Route 102, but they've gotten no satisfaction from the Seabees, a naval reserve group that is building the town's dog pound just down the road.

The veterans say they are equally upset with area lawmakers for failing to champion their cause.

"There's a lot of bitterness over the way we've been treated," said Emmett J. Shea, chairman of the post's building committee. "I just don't understand it and neither does anybody else."

Once housed in the old Knights of Columbus building on Park Street, the post broke ground for its new

headquarters with a display of the colors last September. Plans call for a one-story log cabin-type building.

The construction is being funded in part through a \$50,000 loan backed by four local businessmen. Much of the work is being done on a volunteer basis, by the VFW members themselves and area contractors.

Since the ground-breaking, the foundation has been poured and the utilities installed. Two contractors, Western Mass Construction and J.H. Maxymilian Inc., donated their services backfilling and grading, while local carpenters have contributed their skills. But the building itself is lagging behind its hoped-for completion date of June.

Shea, the former police chief of Great Barrington,

said the veterans asked for a helping hand from the Seabees, the same group that is building the town's dog pound, but were refused. They turned to area lawmakers for their powers of influence, but were disappointed. Those lawmakers, he said, were U.S. Rep. Silvio O. Conte, R-Pittsfield, state Sen. Peter C. Webber, R-Pittsfield, and state Rep. Christopher J. Hodgkins, D-Lee.

"We're willing to donate the building and the facilities for fraternal organizations," Shea said. "All we're asking for is manpower."

Also upset is the post commander, John E. Farina. "It's a hard shell to swallow," he said. "I don't feel we should bow down to anyone. We earned the right to be free Americans."

Referring to the town's dog pound, Farina said he is incensed that "they consider a dog to be more important than a man who sacrificed his life," fighting for his country.

John A. Demastrie, a chief petty officer with the Seabees based in Pittsfield, said all building requests must be screened and approved at the brigade level, adding, "It's not our decision to make."

In general, Demastrie said the Seabees perform work only for public non-profit organizations. He said the reserve group has other, military priorities, and is beginning to curtail its outside assignments.

He said he is aware of the VFW's request and plans to respond to it. Beyond that, he declined further comment.

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Berkshire Courier
Thurs July 16, 1988

Lee

Awards Presented At Lee High School

LEE — The following scholarship and awards have been presented to graduating seniors at Lee High School:

Amy Clauss, Theresa Salinetti and David Terlik, Lee Lime awards in memory of John M. Deely and Claude M. Haggarty; Amy Claus, Katherine Burns, Theresa Salinetti, David Terlik, Ami Collins, Thomas Finnegan, Amy Boyne, David Mack, Pamela Morehouse and Ann Motarella, Mary Voght Memorial scholarships.

Amy Clauss, Katrina Romeo, Susan Castegnaro, Lee Kiwanis Club scholarship; Tricia Bradgon, Kathleen Fennelly, Keith Kasprzak, Stedman-Myers Memorial Fund scholarship; Jane Keiderling, Regina Nichols, Sandra O'Brien, Mark Pyenson, Suzanne Riiska, Amanda Snow, Michael Thomas, Sharon Williams, Otis PTO scholarship; Theresa Salinetti, Retzel Memorial athletic scholarship.

Thomas Finnegan, Griffin Memorial athletic scholarship; Pamela Morehouse, Griffin/Retzel Citizenship scholarship; Ami Collins, Tri-Town Rotary scholarship in memory of Maurice Boulanger; Katherine Burns, Theresa Salinetti, G. Marconi Lodge 1620 Order of Sons of Italy, Lee; Amy Clauss, National Elks Foundation scholarship; Katherine Burns, Michele Maroni, Amy Salinetti, Lee Education Association scholarship in memory of Arthur Welcome.

Katherine Burns, Michele Maroni, Pamela Morehouse, Tricia Bragdon, Andrea Masiero, Paul Petersoli, Susan Saunders and Richard Stanard, Lee Band Parents scholarships; Jennifer Welch, Kristin Hawley, Theresa Salinetti, Student Council scholarships in honor of James I. Brown; Amy Boyne, Ami Collins, Melissa Croze, Thomas Finnegan, Student Council scholarships in honor of Robert Lucy.

Joey Moretz, Otis Kiwanis Club scholarship; Amy Salinetti, Sima Shafiroff, Naomi Steadman, Eastover scholarships; Thomas Finnegan, Mead Paper scholarship; Tricia Bragdon, Hop Brook Community Club of Tyringham scholarship; Katherine Burns, State Grand Lodge, Sons of Italy; David Mack, scholarship in honor of Dr. Charles W. Stratton; Joey Moretz, Diesel Dan's scholarship in honor of Robert Lucy.

David Mack, Katrina Shaw, South Lee Civic Association scholarship in memory of Joe Davis and Thomas Burt; Ami Collins, David Mack, Theresa Salinetti, Katrina Shaw, Maurice Boulanger scholarship; Katherine Burns and Kelly Stanard, scholarship in memory of George W. and May J. Alter, given by daughter Goicy Heath; Richard Stanard, Brce, and John Stevenson Memorial scholarship; Helene Gould, David Mack, Amy Clauss, Dennis Forfa and Andrea Larmon, Quiz Team scholarships given by Mr. and Mrs. William Hall.

Denise Rock, one year's tuition to Berkshire Community College; Katherine Burns, Amy Clauss, Theresa Salinetti, Commonwealth Scholars grant by State Board of Education and Board of Regents.

Cable Subscribers To Be Polled

LEE — Subscribers to Century Berkshire Cable TV will soon be asked to fill out a questionnaire prepared by the four-town cable advisory committee.

Century Berkshire serves Lee, Lenox, Stockbridge and Great Barrington, offering 18 basic channels for \$11 plus several pay channels. The firm hopes to expand its service within six months.

According to the questionnaire, the system may add WFSB of Hartford, Conn; WNYT of Albany, N.Y.; WHMT of Schenectady, N.Y.;

WEDH of Hartford; WGGB of Springfield; and WCVB of Boston.

Also the Discovery Channel, Financial News Network, American Movie Classics, Cable Value Network, Cable News Network, The Weather Channel and CBN.

These additional channels may also bring an increase in the basic cost.

Viewers will also be asked about their interest in premium services such as the Playboy Channel, Bravo and New England Sports Network.

Hazardous Waste Collection

LEE — A household hazardous waste collection will be held June 25 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Department of Public Works area across from the post office. Lee residents may bring up to five gallons of hazardous household materials to the site, including photo chemicals, oil-based paints, batteries, pesticides, bleach and cosmetics. Explosives, empty food containers, metal lawn chairs and used smoke detectors will not be accepted. The pickup is sponsored by the Tri-Town Health Department. Proof of residency will be required.

Fireworks Confiscated

LEE — Acting on a phone tip, State Police Officer Michael S. Mazza this week seized a trunkload of fireworks and will seek criminal charges against William F. Nadeau, 20, of West Redding, Conn. The charges will likely include illegal sale of fireworks.

Andrea Masiero and Tina Brighenti, Decathlon scholarships given by Mr. and Mrs. Hall; Andrea Larmon, Academic Competition scholarship given by Mr. and Mrs. Hall; Katherine Burns, scholarship in memory of Kelley Ryan give by Shaun Hall; David Mack, Amy Clauss, Dennis Forfa and Andrea Larmon, WBEC Scholastic Challenge scholarships given by First Agricultural Bank.

Ami Collins, Thomas Finnegan, Theresa Salinetti, Dr. John T. Cinella Memorial scholarships; Kelly Stanard, Comalli Electric scholarship in memory of James Mouglin; Monica Gelpi, Lions Club scholarship.

Dennis Forfa, Michael Whalen Memorial scholarship; Kathleen Fennelly, Tyringham Fire Department scholarship; Kelly Stanard, Auxiliary to the Berkshire Medical Society; Tricia Bragdon, Tawni Collins, Keith Kasprzak, Ladies Auxiliary of the Tyringham Fire Department; Katherine Burns, VFW Post 893 scholarship and VFW Auxiliary 893 scholarship; Carolyn Airolti, Lee National Bank scholarship.

Andrea Larmon, Morning Star Chapter 217, Order of Eastern Star scholarship; Michele Maroni, Mass. DAR scholarship; Martin Leahy, Gridiron Club scholarship; Richard Stanard and Todd Buch, Class of 1983 scholarship in memory of Paul Hicks and Richard Santolin; Michele Maroni, Abner Rice scholarship; Tricia Bragdon, Tawni Collins, Keith Kasprzak and Pamela Morehouse, scholarship in memory of Patrick E. Fennelly.

Greg Girardey, Clark Aiken Local 264, United Electrical Workers Union; Amy Salinetti, scholarship in memory of Susan E. Nerrie; Todd Bush, Kelly Coty Memorial scholarship; Katrina Romeo, scholarship in memory of Penny Lohbauer; David Terlik, Berkshire County Hockey Coaches Association scholarship; Matthew Perachi, Eugenio Bonafin award.

Andrea Masiero, Churchward Davis scholarship; Matthew Perachi, Joe Davis Memorial scholarship; Christina Phillips, scholarship in memory of Harry Wheeler; Carolyn Airolti, Richard Stanard, Zukowski-Williams Memorial scholarship; Stacy Merwin, Salinetti-Aucion Memorial scholarship.

Kim Nicholas, East Lee Civic Association scholarship; Robert Morrison, Lee Youth Association scholarship; Joey Moretz, Lee Pee Wee Football scholarship; Lori Soules, award in memory of Alphonso Sorrention given by Virginia Millard; Thomas Finnegan, Ardella Donnell award; Katherine Burns, Amy Clauss, Theresa Salinetti, Albert Vinatier French scholarship.

Melizza Croze, Lee Senior Citizens Club scholarship; Susan Saunders, Lee Town Players in memory of Cora Carrington; Patrick Noonan, Todd Gerlach, Michele Nardin, Lori Kimberley, Alan Wurtzbach award;

Zukowski mindful of steps on ladder to supt.'s post

By William J. Carey
Berkshire Eagle Staff

LEE — The school system's biggest cheerleader will become its boss Friday when Henry T. "Hank" Zukowski officially takes over as superintendent of schools.

Zukowski brings to the \$52,000-a-year job his trademark optimism and a wealth of local experience. He first came to Lee as a rookie teacher more than 30 years ago and

worked his way up through the ranks, becoming principal of Lee High School in 1984.

He bested 21 original applicants, some of them top administrators, in winning the superintendency. In that capacity, he is responsible for a budget of \$3.8 million and more than 1,000 students from Lee, Otis and Tyringham.

"He is someone who knows the system," said Judith L. Olds,

chairman of the Lee School Committee. "He knows our goals."

The former superintendent, Clarence C. Truesdell, failed to win a renewal of his contract from the joint committee representing the three towns. He is now working as a director of special education for the state of Connecticut. His three-year contract ends this week.

Truesdell had excellent credentials, but his style of leadership and lack of visibility in the community disappointed many of the committee members. Soft-spoken, he favored "participatory management," and was criticized for passing along recommendations instead of making them. He rented a home in Lee, but was aloof from community events, committee members said.

Zukowski in many ways is the opposite of his predecessor. Whereas Truesdell was soft-spoken, Zukowski speaks loudly and to the point. His recommendations, even if based on the advice of others, are unmistakably his own. And his participation in school and community affairs is beyond reproach.

At 62, Zukowski has no intention of letting up. An avid jogger, he starts each day with a 5-mile run.

"I'm a very enthusiastic person," he said recently. "I love my job. I look forward to coming in daily."

Son of immigrants

Credit his work ethic to his parents, Polish immigrants who settled in Salem. His father, Walerian, was a leather worker in nearby Peabody; his mother, Emilia, worked in a cotton mill. Though they struggled like others through the Depression, they made enough to send Zukowski and his sister, Laura, to parochial school.

"My father and my mother expected to work for the rest of their lives," he said. "My father looked at work as a necessity, and I follow that."

Zukowski served in the Marines during World War II and the Korean War, but he prefers not to dwell on these "forgotten memories." He attended Salem Business College for two years and earned a bachelor's degree from Boston University. In 1952, he came to Lee after being promised an interview with then Superintendent Arthur L. Welcome. He was hired as a business and social studies teacher.

A year after arriving, Zukowski met his future bride, the former Joan E. Williams of Northfield, who came to Lee as a home economics teacher after graduating from Framingham State College. In 1955, Zukowski obtained a master's degree in education from BU.

16 years in classroom

After 16 years in the classroom, the aspiring teacher was appointed high school vice principal under Robert Lucy. He held that post until 1984, when Lucy retired and opened the door to the principal's job.

In 1985, the superintendent's job opened. Zukowski dutifully served in an interim capacity, but declined to seek the top post for himself. Asked to explain that decision, he said he wanted to remain as a principal in order to carry out recommendations of the New England Association of Schools and Colleges. The association, which makes regular checkups for school accreditation, recommended improvements in curriculum and other areas.

"I felt there was some work that had to be done in the high school," he said. "I was aware of some of the changes that had to be made and I wanted to complete the recommendations. I felt it would take at least three years."



William J. Carey

NEW SUPERINTENDENT Henry T. Zukowski takes up residence in his office at Lee Central School. Formerly principal of Lee High School, Zukowski officially becomes superintendent Friday.

Lee High to try out dean of students job

LEE — The School Committee last night voted to replace the vice principal's job at Lee High School with the post of dean of student affairs. The new post is being launched on a one-year trial basis.

Also last night, the committee said it expects to name a successor to former Principal Henry T. Zukowski at its next meeting. Zukowski officially becomes superintendent of schools this week.

According to a job description made available at the meeting, the dean of student affairs will "provide support and assistance to the building administrators and staff in the areas of student discipline, attendance and extracurricular activities."

The job will deal solely with students and not with other functions of the vice principal, such as making teacher evaluations. It will also pay less. The vice principal now makes about \$40,000; the dean of student affairs, presumably a teacher, would receive a teacher's salary.

Enrollment decline

Joseph C. Savery, a member of the personnel subcommittee that recommended the position, said declining enrollment at the high school was a major factor in the decision. In the past, the high school had more than 400 students under the direction of a principal and vice principal. This year, enrollment has dipped to 360 students, a trend that

is not expected to change.

Savery and School Committee Chairman Judith L. Olds said the dean of students' job will be mutually beneficial. On the one hand, the school system will have a staffer concerned primarily with students. That employee, in turn, will gain valuable experience as an administrator.

"I think it's a very interesting concept," Savery said. For the new dean of students, "It's a chance to get out of the classroom and do something else."

The job will be evaluated by the principal in January and again at the end of the school year. At that time, the school committee will decide whether to continue it.

The job will be advertised both inside and outside of the school system.

The committee also voted to advertise the principal's post within the system. Vice Principal Richard T. Salinetti, who attended the meeting, confirmed that he will apply for the job. He has served as vice principal since 1984.

That same year, Zukowski jumped from vice principal to principal, succeeding Robert Lucy.

Though he refuses to criticize his predecessor, Zukowski assured that further changes will take place now that he is superintendent. First off, he wants to smooth the transition from elementary to high school by making teachers' in-service programs for all teachers rather than for separate grades.

He also wants to improve the system's reading program and work with the personnel subcommittee to better define the roles of school administrators. They should spend more time with education, he said, and less with building maintenance, field upkeep and the like.

Contract talks

Most important, Zukowski called for a resolution of the contract talks between the School Committee and teachers — talks that first began in January and have been shrouded in silence.

"I want the teachers and the School Committee to come up with an agreement on the contract, I really mean that," he said. "I think that would have an awful lot to do with the morale of the staff. I want the teachers to be as high as I am."

Though he is no longer one of them, Zukowski promised not to forget his roots in the classroom.

"I'm not impressed with my importance," he said. "I feel I've been selected to do a job. I don't have to tell anybody the position is the top position in the school system. It's something that I don't have to drum into people. If anybody expects Hank Zukowski to change, I can't do it. I won't do it."

Eagle, Fri. Aug. 9, 1988

Mead Corp. spill into river 'is not toxic,' DEQE says

By William J. Carey
Berkshire Eagle Staff

LEE — The spill of an estimated 2,600 gallons of latex emulsion into the Housatonic River poses no threat to the environment, a state spokesman said yesterday. The spill resulted from a Wednesday accident at the Mead Corp. Specialty Paper Division.

Ross Hyman, a spokesman for the state Department of Environmental Quality Engineering, said the latex "is not toxic and does not present a risk to humans or wildlife." He said the DEQE is monitoring the situation and will determine later whether a fine is warranted.

Division President David L. Klausmeyer said yesterday the company's Willow Mill was expected to resume operations sometime last night. The mill was shut down Wednesday morning after a hose servicing a latex pump came loose, spilling the emulsion into the mill's sewer system. It was then processed through the system and into the river.

Several residents of Stockbridge, downstream of the mill, reported discoloration of the river water after the

accident. The emulsion traveled up to 5 miles before dissipating.

Mead has two mills in South Lee that produce specialty papers for a variety of uses. The latex emulsion is used as an adhesive to bind the paper. It is added to the papermaking process by a pump.

The emulsion escaped when a hose servicing one of the pumps came loose, spilling the milky-white substance into the sewer system. The sewer brings wastewater to the mill's treatment plant, where solids are removed. The remaining water is then emptied into the river. On Wednesday, the latex emulsion was carried with it.

After shutting down the mill, the company added paper fiber to the waste water in order to absorb the latex trapped in the treatment plant. Klausmeyer said the water coming from the plant yesterday "looked very clear and back to normal."

While the closing of the mill caused no layoffs, Klausmeyer predicted a "significant" impact on the company's operating profits. He said a full investigation would be made of the accident.

Board delays action on October Mtn. plan

By William J. Carey
Berkshire Eagle Staff

LEE — The Selectmen last night continued until Aug. 22 a public hearing to consider new plans to complete work at The Village at October Mountain.

The board met for an hour with about 55 residents, town officials and representatives of the Berkshire County Savings Bank, which has taken control of the village. The bank is seeking an amended special permit to repair faulty work and complete 16 condominium units built with expired permits.

Jed P. Lipsky of Monterey, a trustee of the bank, urged the board to take speedy action on the permit. He was accompanied by fellow trustee Robert Mackenzie, lawyer Emil J. George and engineer Robert G. Brown of Accord Diversified Consultants.

Located on a slope of mountain off East Street, the condominium village has been a source of controversy since construction began nearly three years ago. The Selectmen on two occasions withheld occupancy permits for completed units, alleging that developers Philip M. Manger and Robert H. Garrity had failed to comply with conditions of their special permit from the town.

The bank, which financed the construction, announced in May that it was taking control of the village with the intentions of settling all disputes and making peace with the town and residents.

Last night, Lipsky said permits exist for 88 of the 104 condominium units either completed or partially constructed. He said the bank wants to finish the 16 illegal units and build two more: a resident manager's quarters and village office. It is also proposing extensive, mostly drainage-related repairs.

Lipsky reiterated that the bank has no plans at this time to develop 10 acres above the village.

On another front, he said the bank will meet with the Zoning Board of Appeals to resolve setback violations involving two abutters. In both cases, village condominiums encroach on the property-line setback required by town bylaws.

Lipsky said the bank has committed "a tremendous amount of capital" to correcting deficiencies. He said residents and abutters are "generally very pleased" with its involvement, a claim that was backed by at least two residents at the meeting.

Comments sought

The Selectmen continued the hearing in order to hear comments from the Department of Public Works, which had insufficient time to view the plans, and the Conservation Commission, which plans to set conditions for grading, drainage and erosion-control at the site.

At Lipsky's urging the board tentatively agreed not to withhold the permit based on completion of the commission's requirements. Instead, he suggested that the town deny occupancy of finished condominiums if it is unsatisfied with the work. To help ensure that it is satisfied, he said the bank will pay for an independent engineer to monitor the work.

The hearing will be reopened Aug. 22 at 7:30 in the Airolti Building. If the Selectmen vote to issue the permit, a 21-day appeal period will follow.

Lee's Celebration to feature sidewalk sales, entertainment

LEE — The Lee Celebration kicks off tomorrow with a lip-sync contest, opening ceremonies and a slate of entertainment lasting into the evening. The festivities will resume Saturday and Sunday.

"We're in good shape — everything's in place," said Bruce M. Kaiden, chairman of the Celebration's planning committee. "It's theater time now."

The annual event is sponsored by the Greater Lee Chamber of Commerce in cooperation with the town. This year, it is being held in conjunction with the Mead Corp. Specialty Paper Division, which is hosting a free concert Sunday at its Willow Mill gazebo off Route 102. Picnickers are welcome.

The Celebration, a carnivallike affair with sidewalk sales, food and entertainment, will be concentrated at park square on the lower end of Main Street. Recommended areas for parking are the town lot off Eaton Street, the Price Chopper lot off Main Street and the Park Plaza on Park Street.

Opening ceremonies will be held tomorrow at noon at the Lee Library. A portion of Main Street will be closed briefly to allow a parade by the Royal Knights Drum & Bugle Corps.

New additions this year are the First Congregational Church art sale, the Hyde Place bazaar and food sale and a children's fair sponsored by area day care directors. The Tri-Town Rotary of Lee, Lenox and Stockbridge will hold its annual pancake breakfast at a new time: Saturday from 7:30 to noon.

The musical program will feature a concert by local songwriters Saturday at 7 p.m. The concert is being hosted by Pat and Tex LaMountain of Greenfield. It is being funded through a grant by the Lee Arts Lottery Council. Performing will be Sammy Brown, Rob Putnam and Joel Sturz of Lee and Elizabeth Petty of Washington.

Schedule of events

Following is the schedule of events. All events will take place at park square off Main Street unless otherwise noted.

Friday: 10 a.m. — lip-sync contest; noon, opening ceremonies at Lee Library; 1 — Deborah Morris, children's folk singer; 2 — Berkshire Theatre Festival children's play; 3 — David Grover and Judy Luneth; 4 — Tim Grey and Henry Bush; 5 — intermission; 6 — Sherri James and Mike Schiffer; 7 — Berkshire All Stars; 9 — Magic

(rhythm and blues).

Saturday: 7:30 a.m. — Tri-Town Rotary Pancake Breakfast at Tool Agency lot; 10 — opening welcome; 11 — Shakespeare & Company clown squad; noon — Berkshire Public Theatre, excerpts from "Goodtime Rock 'n' Roll"; 1 — JoAnn Murray Dance Company; — Eagles Concert Band; 4 — Su Winters, Tim Grey and Glen Ferrell; 5 — Cornerstone Band; 7 — Pat and Tex.

Sunday, at Mead Corp. Willow Mill: 2 — Sweet Adelines; 3 — Royal Garden Jazz Band with Natalie Lamb.

Eagle, Mon. Aug 15, 1988



Nicholas DeCandia

CONCERT sponsored by Mead Corp. at the gazebo in front of the Willow Mill was the final event of the Celebration. Performing here is the Berkshire Hills Chapter of Sweet Adelines.

Lee Celebration warmly received

By Meg Sandoval
Special to The Eagle

LEE — The hot, muggy weather caused one person to faint and created a run on 5-cent chocolate ice cream cones at McClelland's, but otherwise failed to wilt the enthusiasm of fairgoers at the 10th annual Lee Chamber of Commerce Celebration this past weekend.

Lee Little League players and coaches joined forces with the Royal Knights Drum and Bugle Corps in an impromptu parade to kick off Saturday's festivities. An awards presentation emceed by state Rep. Christopher J. Hodgkins, D-Lee, followed.

"It was a very special little event. The whole town participated," said Bruce M. Kaiden, chairman of the Celebration planning committee.

According to Kaiden, the parade and the lip-sync contest that followed drew more than 500 to the yellow and white tent in the park square.

Winners of the best overall lip-sync performance were three brothers, Stephen, Richard and Jeffrey Guidice of Theresa-Terrace, with the tune, "I Think I'm a Clone Now." The song was particularly appropriate since Stephen and

Richard are twins.

First prize in the girls' division went to Stephanie Marie Roosa for her rendition of "It Should Have Been Me." Top prize for the boys went to the three-member team calling themselves Bud and the Weizers led by Brian Derkel for their versions of "Shout" and "True Love."

Although he could not estimate how many attended the three-day event, Kaiden said the hot weather kept a good flow of people through the center of town.

"I think there were a lot of people in town but they didn't stay in town long. I had a sense that I was seeing different faces all day," he said.

Videofile manager Steven Loring said videotape rentals were down due to the change from last year's activities, which stretched the length of Main Street. Loring hit the streets hawking popcorn and held a sale on old movies to bolster business, he said.

A spokesman for the Lee Police Department said the events in town were "pretty quiet."

Lee post office being renovated

LEE — Anthony L. Caropreso, owner of the building that houses the Lee post office, is planning a number of renovations and possibly a drive-up window to improve its overall operation and appearance.

Already, the deteriorated roof of the building has been repaired at a cost of \$15,000. The shutters and trim have been repainted to bayberry green, and the post office lettering to gold. A weathervane with a large eagle now occupies the cupola on the main roof.

Among other improvements, Caropreso said the outside of the building will be landscaped with trees and shrubbery as part of a general "dressing up" to make the area more pleasing to the eye. The main entrance will be redesigned to make it more accessible to the disabled.

Caropreso and Postmaster William G. Matthews have agreed to seek approval for the installation of a drive-up window on the west side of the building, facing the Lee Car Wash. It would be Berkshire County's first window postal operation.

In order to establish window service, they must first obtain permission from the U.S. Postal Service in Springfield. If the Postal Service is willing, approval from the town's Planning Board would also be required.

Matthews said the drive-up window would help alleviate delays at the front counter, normally staffed by two people. According to figures taken during a five-day period last month, the post office serviced an average of 732 people a day at the counter alone. The figure does not include people who visited their postal boxes or dropped off mail.

In addition, the window would

help eliminate some of the cars from the front of the building, a town street where parking is not allowed. The prohibition is rarely observed.

Caropreso purchased the one-story brick building from Golub Properties of Massachusetts Inc. for \$50,000 in June 1987. Golub, based in Schenectady, N.Y., owns the adjacent Price Chopper supermarket.

The post office, one of two in Lee, has been housed in the brick building since 1965. It has a five-year renewable lease.

With a drive-up window, Caropreso estimated that renovations of the building could cost as much as \$40,000. He said he wants to improve the property in order to complement

other renovations, such as those of the town parking lot and park square. The post office improvements should be completed by next spring.

"I couldn't let it go," Caropreso said of the condition of the building. "I could have sat back and collected rent, but in five years, what would you have?"

Eagle, Tues. Aug 16, 1988



William J. Carey

DEFENDING HIS MARKET, Neil Golub, president of the Golub Corp. of Schenectady, N.Y., answers critics of the company's Price Chopper supermarket in Lee during a meeting last night with the Selectmen. To his left, seated at table, are Vic Biasin, center, the supermarket's assistant manager, and Jack Moran, Golub's director of government relations.

Price Chopper officials promise to improve building, selection

By William J. Carey
Berkshire Eagle Staff

LEE — Officials of the Golub Corp. of Schenectady, N.Y., last night promised to make further improvements at the Price Chopper supermarket, but they stopped short of saying they would expand the market.

The family-owned business, which operates 60 supermarkets in four states, was represented by its president, Neil Golub, and three corporate officers. Also present was Vic Biasin, assistant manager of the local market.

The meeting was called by the Selectmen to resolve numerous complaints against the Price Chopper. Those complaints sparked the search for a competing supermarket, which has produced at least two interested parties.

Though they found themselves in a roomful of critics, the supermarket executives held their own. Golub, who did most of the talking, recalled how Lee used to have three supermarkets. Big Y of Springfield,

one of the two interested parties, "walked away" from the town when it purchased the former Adams Super Market but elected to close it, he said.

"Consequently, we became the only store in town," he said.

Golub conceded that the Price Chopper is physically too small, but said it may not be financially

'Our biggest problem is we don't have enough space to carry the variety of things people want.'

— Neil Golub

feasible to expand it. He promised to make every effort to improve the existing building, which is due for renovations in the next few years.

In 1985, the company spent about \$250,000 on remodeling it, he said.

Of the product selection, one of the biggest complaints, Golub said, "You have so many lineal feet of shelving, and you have to make a decision. Our biggest problem is we don't have enough space to carry the variety of things people want."

Sue Ann Ritchko, vice president of consumer affairs, said the market has taken a number of steps as a result of the "consumer council" held last week with 10 senior citizens. She said it will stock more varieties and smaller portions of soups, crackers and detergents. Golub said the market will improve its produce section, which he described as "unsatisfactory."

Golub took exception to Selectman William D. Bean's suggestion that Price Chopper has become a "specialty store." Bean has said that he heard many complaints about the lack of variety at the store while campaigning among senior citizens.

"The basic food commodity groups are well-represented in that store," Golub said, adding that Price Chopper must appeal to a "broad spectrum" of shoppers rather than individual groups such as senior citizens.

On the issue of pricing, Golub said, "I can tell you factually that the prices in Lee and Lenox are the same."

That brought scattered howls from the group of about 15 onlookers, some of whom contended that prices are lower at the Lenox Price Chopper.

Commenting on the meeting later, Biasin said, "It opened a lot of doors. It was enlightening to hear both sides. We'll take care of it."

Eagle

Tues. Aug 16

Ronald Driscoll named Lee Fire Dept. chief

LEE — Ronald J. Driscoll of 35 Ferncliff Ave. has been named chief of the town's volunteer Fire Department, ending the position's four-year interim status.

Driscoll, 47, was chosen from a field of four candidates for the part-time job. Although the Selectmen last night released no results, he apparently outscored the other three candidates on a specially prepared, four-part test given in place of the state Civil Service exam, which the town decided to drop.

Contacted later at the Central Fire Station, Driscoll said he originally opposed the decision to leave Civil Service. He said he did "reasonably well" on the town test, but declined to give his score.

"The test is what they said it would be," he observed. "They gave us study materials and followed suit, so to speak."

Run by Buffis

The department has been administered by acting chief, Lazzaro J. "Digger" Buffis, for the past four years. In that time, several local candidates tried and failed to pass the difficult Civil Service exam to qualify for the job.

Last fall, town meeting representatives voted to petition the state Legislature to remove Civil Service as a prerequisite for the job. After that legislation passed, representatives gave final approval for the withdrawal in May.

Joseph Gervais of Ware, a fire-fighting expert, was hired to administer a local test. It was based on written and oral exams, admin-



William J. Carey
Ronald J. Driscoll

istrative skills and problem-solving. The candidates, along with Driscoll, were Buffis, Alan B. Sparks and Wilbur J. Hunt Jr.

A 20-year veteran of the force, Driscoll is not an officer. Asked about the possibility of personnel changes, he said he would "hold fast" with the present chain of command. He also praised the efforts of his predecessor.

"We've always had a certain amount of problems," he said. "I think Mr. Buffis did a good job here — he did the best he could. He just wasn't given the reigns" of a full chief.

Driscoll works as a tractor-trailer driver for the Kimberly-Clark Corp.

Eagle, Thurs Aug. 18, 1988

Mead latex spill pours into river

By William J. Carey
Berkshire Eagle Staff

LEE — An undetermined amount of latex emulsion used by the Mead Corp. Specialty Paper Division was released into the Housatonic River yesterday, prompting a number of reports of discolored water.

The milky emulsion, which is used in the papermaking process, spilled into the waste-water treatment system of the company's Willow Mill after a hose ruptured at about 9 a.m. It was then processed through the system and into the river.

David L. Klausmeyer, president of the division, said the spill was halted within 20 minutes and posed no pollution threat.

"Fortunately, we're dealing with a non-hazardous material going through a system that was designed to catch it and treat it," he said.

DEQE notified

The state Department of Environmental Quality Engineering was notified of the situation and was monitoring it, Mead officials said. The department's Boston office was unable to provide any information late yesterday afternoon.

Several residents of Stockbridge, which is downstream from the mill, called police to report discolored river water. The Eagle's bureau in Great Barrington and the state also received calls.

Mead has two mills in Lee that produce various papers for decorative laminates, filters and other uses. The latex is used as an adhesive to bind the paper. It is added to the papermaking process by a pump.

Klausmeyer said a supervisor reported at 9 that a hose serving the pump had ruptured. The latex emulsion, which has the consistency of milk, was spilled directly into the mill's sewer system. The hose was sealed within 20 minutes, and the production process was shut down.

The waste water from that process is funneled through the sewer system to the mill's treatment plant, where solids are removed. It is then emptied into the river. The discoloration of the river yesterday was caused by the presence of latex in the waste water.

Thick under bridge

The greatest concentration of the escaped latex appeared to be under the bridge at West Main and Cherry streets near the Stockbridge Golf Course.

Klausmeyer said the company was adding paper fiber to the waste water in order to absorb the remaining latex from the treatment plant. He said the fiber would then be de-watered and buried, like sludge from the papermaking process, in the company landfill.

George O'Neill, Mead's environmental engineer, said a DEQE engineer and inspector from the state Division of Fisheries and Wildlife were monitoring the cleanup late yesterday afternoon. He said that "they're satisfied with what we're doing."

The Willow Mill remained closed while the operation continued. Klausmeyer said a full investigation would be made to determine why the hose ruptured and what steps should be taken to prevent further accidents.

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Eagle, Sat. Aug. 20, 1988



William J. Carey

LEE POLICE STATION is located in the basement of the Civil War-era Memorial Town Hall. The main entrance, at left, is a few steps down from street level. At right, Officer Joseph Buffis stands in the police station's main hallway. Through the bars is one of three offices, none of which have windows.

Prisoners are kept in two small cells in the back of the building. The Lee Police Association, which represents patrolmen, has complained to the Selectmen about poor working conditions.

Lee police protest basement quarters

Continued from Page B1

representatives.

Selectmen Chairman Christopher A. Salinetti last night called the maneuver a "cheap shot," saying, "We didn't appreciate the tone of the letter. We thought it was facetious and distasteful. We are and have been working on it."

The letter may be a surprise, but the condition of the police station is not. Located below street level, it consists of a narrow hallway with three small offices. There are no windows. When a person is taken into custody, he is accompanied on a roundabout route to one of two cells in the back of the building. The journey is tricky, police said, if the person is uncooperative.

"The guys are getting uptight — having to work in a hole like that," said Officer John A. Farina, president of the association. "We're trying to update the growth of the police station to match the growth of the town."

Police Chief Edward J. Finnegan said he had no control over the issuance of the letter but sympathized with its objectives. Asked if the police station is inadequate, he said, "It's not only inadequate, it's worse than that."

Memorial Hall, a fortress-like building at Main Street and Park Place, was erected in 1874 as a tribute to Civil War veterans. Over the years, it has housed a library, a post office, a basement barbershop and a second-floor theater. The first floor above the police station is home to the town clerk's office and the Southern Berkshire District Court, which sits in Lee and Great Barrington. The second floor of the building is vacant.

More than a year ago, a committee formed by the Selectmen began developing a plan to renovate the aging building and to erect a new

emergency complex — shared by the police, ambulance and fire departments — next to the Central Fire Station. The goals of the plan were to modernize the town's emergency services, reorganize its offices and free up needed space for the District Court.

It has long been feared that the District Court wants to depart Lee and consolidate in Great Barrington.

"Something's got to be done, and I think they realize that," Judge James P. Dohoney said yesterday of the Selectmen. "We desperately need a substantial renovation and relocation of space — not a paper and paint job."

Town meeting representatives approved \$9,000 for an architectural rendering of the renovation plan but reeled at the estimated construction price of \$3 million. Last May, after voters refused to back an exemption from Proposition 2½ to pay for the project, representatives had no choice but to drop it.

At a special town meeting in June, the Selectmen sought to borrow \$1 million for Memorial Hall alone. During the course of the debate, the request was narrowed to roof repairs — estimated at \$200,000 — and then defeated.

Representative John E. DeVarennes argued that better overall planning was necessary to justify large capital expenditures.

Of the new emergency complex sought by the police department, he said yesterday, "That's fine if we can talk about how it will be implemented, how it will be paid for. I don't think those questions have been answered yet."

Because of the failed \$3 million building package and because they are faced with the specter of pending projects, the Selectmen reconvened the Capital Outlay Committee, which

evaluates major project proposals. That committee, which appointed DeVarennes chairman, has a formidable job. According to the Selectmen, up to \$20 million will be needed to fund a variety of needed municipal projects, including Memorial Hall renovations and construction of the emergency center, over the next several years.

Salinetti suggested that the police association take its case for better working quarters to the representatives, rather than the board.

"These things take time," he said. "We've said all along the building is in terrible shape. We don't disagree with them."

Eagle, Sat Aug 20, 1988

Lee police protest cramped quarters

By William J. Carey
Berkshire Eagle Staff

LEE — The Lee Police Association has sent a stinging letter to the Selectmen protesting the cramped, basement-level working quarters in the Civil War Memorial Town Hall.

"You cannot shop around the county for police protection," the association said, referring to the board's efforts to attract a second supermarket. "The Selectmen have to devote at least the same amount

of time and effort that they have in the supermarket hunt to the problem with the police station."

The association represents eight full-time patrolmen and about 10 special officers below the rank of chief. It sent copies of the letter to state Rep. Christopher J. Hodgkins, D-Lee, the Capital Outlay Committee, Department of Public Works, Board of Health and town meeting

Lee police
Continued on Page B5

Eagle, Fri. Aug. 26, 1988

Halt on building eyed for Route 20 in Lee, Lenox

By William Hunt
Berkshire Eagle Staff

LENEX — A proposed traffic study of Route 20 from the Lee Turnpike interchange to Dan Fox Drive may include a one-year moratorium on all new construction along that route, according to Rep. Christopher J. Hodgkins, D-Lee.

State Transportation Secretary Frederick Salvucci and Public Works Commissioner Jane Garvey will discuss the proposal with the Selectmen of Lenox and Lee Thursday at 9:30 a.m. at the Lenox Town Hall.

"We're going to do a curb-cut moratorium until the study tells us what's best for public safety all along that route, including the Lenox strip," Hodgkins said yesterday.

"This study and the moratorium, while it's being carried out, will protect the best interests of everyone, the people living in the communities, travelers passing through, industry and the developers," said Hodgkins.

"No one will be able to criticize us for not planning, this is the best thing we could do to prepare the next 20 years along this road," he said.

The Berkshire County Regional Planning Commission would be given substantial funding to carry out an "extensive and professional study with a deadline for its completion," Hodgkins predicted. In the interim all development, both commercial and residential, would be halted, he said.

"I'm really excited by this, it feels like hitting a home run for the hometown

team," said Hodgkins, adding that he has been pushing for the study for several months with state officials.

Pending proposals

Developers have proposed building two shopping centers and a motel along the route. Near the Turnpike in Lee a proposed 67-room Super Eight Motel would likely be affected by the moratorium.

Lenox Green with 270,000 square feet of enclosed retail shopping and 1,500 parking spaces is the larger of the two shopping centers. It is being proposed on 50 acres of Brushwood Farms. The Lenox Green proposal is opposed by the Selectmen and 70 percent of the town's voters signed petitions against it in February.

Developer Ben Hauben is scheduled to meet with Department of Transportation staff in Boston today to discuss a July recommendation of Salvucci's that Lenox Green be denied curb cuts because of the increased traffic the shopping center would generate.

Developer Steven Tanger last week unveiled a preliminary plan for a mall with 85,000 square feet of enclosed shopping and 573 parking spaces. Tanger hopes to build his mall on a 22-acre parcel located along the Lenox bypass off Housatonic Street across from Caligari's Hardware.

Residents have appealed a Conservation Commission determination of wetlands at the Housatonic Street parcel before the state Department of Environmental Quality Engineering. DEQE has scheduled a site inspection of the parcel next Wednesday at 11 a.m.

B8 — The Berkshire Eagle, Saturday, August 27, 1988

Accord near in Lee talks

LEE — Negotiating teams representing the School Committee and the Lee Education Association have reached a tentative agreement on a new teachers' contract, signaling a possible end to eight months of talks.

Asked to confirm whether an accord has been reached, School Committee Chairman Judith L. Olds, one of three members of the board's negotiating team, said the pact is "tentative. Neither side has voted on it."

Olds was reluctant to elaborate because of a prior agreement with the LEA to withhold any announcements until the contract is ratified. Likewise, Patricia L. White, a member of the teachers' negotiating team, declined to comment.

Assuming both teams approve, the LEA may vote on the contract Sept. 6, the day before school begins. Superintendent of Schools Henry T. Zukowski said teachers have reserved time at the faculty meeting that day apparently to discuss the contract.

Zukowski, for one, is pushing for a speedy ratification.

"I want that contract resolved," he said. "I want to start school without teachers worrying about salaries."

The LEA represents about 100 teachers and nurses in the Lee school system. Negotiations for a new contract began last January, and are confined this year to the issue of salaries. The present three-year agreement expires this month.

In May, while the negotiations continued, town meeting representatives approved a \$3.8 million school budget. The School Committee included \$210,000 in that budget to cover salary increases for teachers and other school employees, pending the outcome of negotiations.

Both the School Committee and the LEA, which is being assisted by the Massachusetts Teachers Association, have been tight-lipped throughout the talks. Last month, it appeared as though the school board had made a definitive offer. But the meetings continued.

Serving on the School Committee's negotiating team are Olds, Joseph C. Savery and Edward M. Lahey. The LEA is represented by several teachers.



TAKING A BREAK at the end of a hard weekend's work yesterday are these members of the Bossidy Crerar VFW post on the construction site of their new hall on Route 102. From left are Joseph Scapin, Frank Juliano, Larry Tisdale and post Cmdr. John Farina. Tisdale is a veteran of the Korean War, the others of World War II.

William Hunt

Volunteers building VFW hall

LEE — Volunteers yesterday completed the first stage of a three-weekend project to put up the first-floor walls of the Veterans of Foreign Wars hall.

A total of 25 members and friends of the Bossidy Crerar post worked most of Saturday and yesterday to raise the walls about 40 percent of their planned 9-foot height, accord-

ing to post Cmdr. John Farina.

Among the workers, he said, were three nuns and Susan Scarpa of Lee, who wielded a sledgehammer to drive the 10-inch spikes holding the log walls in place.

The hall on Route 102 was designed by Michael Baluk, Armand Touponce and Farina. Western Massachusetts Construction, across the road, has volunteered its crane to help lift the rooftop in place, Farina said.

When completed, the hall will be 77 by 50 feet and be able to hold crowds up to 250 people. "We hope to have it available for wedding receptions, retirement and anniversary parties, and dances for kids," said Farina, who added, "I've been fighting for this project every since I became commander 15 years ago."

The VFW post paid \$15,000 for the 6-acre site in 1978.

"We're going to build a deck out back eventually," said Farina.

Labor costs have been negligible for the hall, but he listed \$32,000 for construction costs, which include \$10,000 for the foundation, \$7,000 for the walls, \$9,100 for the ground floor and \$6,000 for the sawed and finished logs being used for the walls.

Eagle - Wed. August 31, 1988

Lee school board splits in appointment of new dean

By William J. Carey
Berkshire Eagle Staff

LEE — The School Committee, in a split decision, last night voted to appoint teacher Kathleen R. Bort to the new position of dean of students at Lee High School.

Bort's credentials were never questioned, but some members of the committee criticized both the selection process and the timing of the appointment. Member Edward M. Lahey, who abstained from the final vote, attempted unsuccessfully to have the job readvertised.

Also last night, the committee twice voted to reject the appointment of Thomas F. Cinella as coach of the girls' varsity basketball team. Cinella, a longtime former coach of the boys' basketball team, attended the meeting and was surprised by the decision.

The committee voted earlier this month to replace the vice principal's job at Lee High with a dean of students. The new post, designed to

deal primarily with students, is being tested on a one-year trial basis.

Bort, 39, is a 16-year veteran of the school system who teaches health, biology and peer education. She will receive no pay increase as dean of students.

Contacted at home last night, Bort said she is looking forward to working with both students and teachers in her new capacity.

"I feel good about it," she said. "I feel it's something new, and I'd like to try it."

Role of subcommittee

The school committee nearly rejected the appointment. Member Margaret M. Biron said she was dissatisfied with her role on the selection subcommittee, whose chairman was newly appointed high school Principal Richard T. Salinetti. According to Biron, subcommittee members had little influence over the final recommendation.

"I do not wish to serve on some-

thing of no value," she said of the subcommittee. "I really do not feel I had a purpose there."

She received backing from Lahey and member Carol E. LePrevost, who questioned the timing of the new job. However, member Patricia D. Carlino, who served with Biron on the subcommittee, said she was content with her own participation.

"If I had serious reservations, I would not have been afraid to voice them," she said. "I was satisfied with the committee's recommendation."

Voting in favor of the appointment were Chairman Judith L. Olds, Joseph C. Savery and Carlino. Opposed were Biron and LePrevost. Lahey abstained.

Bort and four others had applied for the job.

Coach recommended

The appointment of Cinella to succeed Sally Maisch as girls' basketball coach was recommended by Salinetti and athletic director Richard P. Lenfest. Salinetti said Cinella has "impeccable" credentials as a teacher and coach. However, the school board voted twice, by a margin of 4-2, to reject that recommendation.

Olds led off the discussion by saying that parents should not coach their own children. Cinella's daughter plays basketball but is not yet old enough for the varsity team.

Cinella said the issue never came up during the four years he coached his son, Peter, on the boys' team. He said he has enough experience to treat his own children and others' equally.

To suggest otherwise, said his wife, Diane Cinella, is a "slur on his integrity as a coach and teacher."

Asked for his opinion, Lahey said, "This is where the job ceases to be fun."

Addressing Cinella, he continued, "I cannot support you as a coach. I don't think you're the person for this job at this point."

Biron was of the opinion that junior varsity coach Kevin Morandi should be given a chance for a promotion. Part of the discussion focused on the fact that Morandi, unlike Cinella, is not a teacher.

Voting against Cinella's appointment were Lahey, Biron, LePrevost and Carlino. In favor were Olds and Savery. When Superintendent of Schools Henry T. Zukowski reintroduced the recommendation, they voted the same way.

On a motion by Savery, the board agreed to table the matter until its next meeting.

Teacher pact

In other business, the board held a 20-minute closed-door meeting with Selectmen William D. Bean and Diane P. Roosa on the status of contract negotiations with the Lee Education Association, which represents teachers. The committee and the faculty association have been negotiating salaries since January and reportedly are nearing an agreement.

Moving up:

Lee police to leave cramped quarters

By William J. Carey
Berkshire Eagle Staff

LEE — The Selectmen this week announced plans to relocate the Police Department and communications center from the cramped basement of the Civil War Memorial Town Hall to the vacant second floor.

The action closely followed the dispatch of a stinging letter from the Lee Police Association protesting its working quarters. The Selectmen, still miffed at that letter, have called a meeting with the association Tuesday.

Welcome step

Meanwhile, Officer John A. Farina, the police association president, and Communications Director Kenneth J. LaBier were optimistic about the move upstairs. Both termed it "a step in the right direction," although not a cure-all for the needs of their departments.

Of his fellow officers, Farina said: "They'll take whatever they can get to improve the Police Department. They're happy with anything that will increase our size."

LaBier, speaking for dispatchers, said, "Anything is better than what they have now. They are so cramped and dank and dark down there. This will do nothing but boost morale and make it a better place to work in."

Weeks, thousands

The move is expected to cost several thousand dollars and take one or two months. The relocation of the communications center involves rerouting antenna lines and transporting telephones, alarm controls and radio equipment from the basement to the second floor. Among other things, town officials must decide how to secure the main entrance of the building leading to the staircase.

Memorial Hall is a 114-year-old brick and stone building at the corner of Main Street and Park Place. On the first floor, above the police and communications departments, are the town clerk's office and Southern Berkshire District Court. The second floor has been vacant since the majority of town offices moved to the Airolidi Building on Railroad Street in 1982.

Nearly two years ago, the Selectmen formed a committee to investigate the renovation needs of Memorial Hall. The renovation was linked from the start to a wider reorganization of town offices calling for a new emergency center next to the Central Fire Station. The police, fire, ambulance and communications departments would have shared that building.

The committee's hired architect, Edward L. Jendry, found that Memorial Hall's renovation needs are substantial, especially in the case of the roof. He said a full renovation of the building would cost about \$1 million. The new emergency center and remodeling of the Airolidi Building would run another \$2 million.

Town meeting action on the package was rendered moot when voters last May refused to back an exemption from Proposition 2½ needed to repay a long-term bond.

'Anything is better than what they have now,' said Kenneth J. LaBier, speaking for his fellow dispatchers.

The Selectmen came back a month later seeking \$1 million for Memorial Hall alone, but the request was defeated at a special town meeting. They plan to introduce it yet again by placing a funding question on the November election ballot.

In a July 29 letter, the police association accused the board of shortchanging "the problem with the police department" in favor of other projects such as luring a second supermarket and building a municipal dog pound. The association represents eight full-time patrolmen and about 10 special officers below the rank of chief.

The Selectmen, still disturbed by the tone of that letter, this week lashed back.

'Nowhere' when needed?

"When we needed them to get out and work hard for that emergency center, they were nowhere to be

found," Selectman William D. Bean said. "A little bit of effort on their part would have saved it."

The same point is made in a Sept. 2 letter to the editor of The Eagle. The letter was written by Selectman Diane P. Roosa on behalf of the board.

Farina said the police association's letter was an attempt to invite the Selectmen to "stop over and see us," and was not meant to be sarcastic or degrading. As to its participation in the town meeting process, he said the association "has never stepped forward and pushed anything" having to do with politics.

Bean said the town has been supportive of the Police Department in the past. "I hope this episode with Memorial Hall and the working conditions doesn't change that," he added.

Hodgkins tries to boost court in Lee

By Stephen Fay
Berkshire Eagle Staff

LEE — State Rep. Christopher J. Hodgkins, D-Lee, is using his legislative muscle in an effort to restore his hometown court to its former, if modest, stature.

A member of the House Ways and Means Committee, Hodgkins inserted language in the recently adopted state budget that could require the resumption of twice-a-week sessions in Lee District Court. The court now sits only one day a week.

The courts in Lee and Great Barrington comprise the District Court of Southern Berkshire. For the past several years, the status and scope of the Lee court has been diminished and the role of the Great Barrington court has grown.

Robert J. Donelan of Alford, presiding justice of the District Court of Southern Berkshire, has made no secret of his wish to see the two courts consolidated. He has not named a particular site for a consolidated court and, in fact, refuses to advocate one location over another.

Nevertheless, there are several indications that the Lee court does not have much of a future.

Cramped quarters

First, the state police transferred all its business to the Great Barrington court. Then Lee's sessions were cut from two a week to just one sitting per week. Great Barrington has sessions twice a week. Two South County police departments that previously brought their cases to Lee have switched to Great Barrington.

And, while the Lee court continues to operate in cramped quarters within Town Hall, the comparatively spacious Great Barrington court, housed within the former Dewey School on Gilmore Avenue, is in the midst of a \$170,000 renovation. The second

Hodgkins
Continued on Page B6

Eagle, Friday Sept. 9, 1988

Hodgkins angles to upgrade Lee court

Continued from Page B1

floor is being refurbished to accommodate a second hearing room for show-cause and juvenile sessions and additional offices. The district attorney will establish a satellite office on that floor. The building is being rewired and central air-conditioning is going in.

"It will be the finest small court facility in the state," Donelan said last night.

Hodgkins said yesterday that his attempt to halt the diminution of the Lee court is grounded in principle and romance.

"As a kid growing up," he said, "the court was a focal point in town. You saw justice working. People

were'n't afraid of the court."

Hodgkins recalled the days, 10 or 12 years ago, when the former presiding justice, the late John J. Dwyer, "parked his baby blue Cadillac across the street and came in saying hello to everybody."

He said he likes the fact that the desk of Paul Collins, the chief probation officer, is by a window that overlooks Main Street.

He said courts should be accessible to the people they serve. Consolidation would make the court less so. He said Donelan and clerk-magistrate Louis Airolodi favor phasing out the Lee court and consolidating in Great Barrington so that they can reign over "a nice

little kingdom all unto themselves."

The police, merchants and residents of Lee, Hodgkins said, don't want to lose the local court. He said the chief proponents of consolidation are Donelan, Airolodi and The Berkshire Eagle, which has often editorialized in favor of a single South Berkshire district court.

Consolidation is being advocated for the wrong reasons by the wrong people, he said.

"The courts are for the people, not for the people who oversee the system," he said. "You don't have to give up things. We should not give up our services."

Scheduling stipulation

Donelan said that he continues to believe in the efficacy of a consolidated court and that consolidation "is in the long-term interests of the people of South Berkshire."

He said he has referred the scheduling stipulation Hodgkins attached to the South Berkshire court's budget to Samuel Zoll, chief justice of the state's trial courts. He said Zoll is still considering the matter and has not issued a decision.

The wording Hodgkins attached to the allocation of \$334,389 for the Southern Berkshire court reads: "District Court of Southern Berkshire (Great Barrington, Lee); provided that said court shall hold a session of the court on Monday and Thursday of each week and that said court shall be open Monday through Friday of each week."

Hodgkins, noting that Lee's

former Thursday session had been cut, said his aim is to restore that sitting.

Donelan said the court schedule, which Zoll oversees, has not been altered. There was no court session in Lee yesterday.

Hodgkins said he didn't expect the schedule to be changed immediately. He said he hopes the language he inserted in the budget will bring about a dialogue between him and court officials concerning the future of the Lee court.

Foxhollow is warned of possible shutdown

By William J. Carey
Berkshire Eagle Staff

LEE — Fresh off enforcing the rules at one development, the Selectmen last night gave their undivided attention to another one — Foxhollow.

The board summoned resort owner Donald I. Altshuler to explain why some of the condominiums have illegal kitchens and to report when certain work items will be accomplished, including the dredging of silt from Laurel Lake.

Kitchens must go

Building Inspector Robert W. Lester threatened to "shut the whole thing down" unless the extra kitchens are removed.

Foxhollow, which lies in both Lee and Lenox, is in the midst of a building program calling for 60 lakeside condominiums, 136 condominium hotel units and a number of time-sharing units.

For the past two years, the Selectmen have waged a battle with The Village at October Mountain over compliance with town building conditions. That matter is being resolved now that the Berkshire County Savings Bank has obtained a permit to finish the project.

The issue of Foxhollow's illegal kitchens has been raised before, but not under threat of a resort closing.

Condos split up

According to Lester, condominium owners are dividing their homes and renting either all or half to other occupants. In doing so, they are building extra kitchens in violation of the town's special permit. He said he discovered seven such kitchens.

Altshuler said some condominium owners have the deemed right to rent their units. He agreed with the Selectmen that extra kitchens are prohibited but said he is at a loss as to how to deal with the problem. He said he has already approached the condominium owners' association.

"I'm frustrated because I don't know what to do about the situation," he said. "Tell me what you want me to do."

Lester, addressing Altshuler, said, "They can rent rooms, but they can't have a kitchen. They've all been sent registered letters. Now they're going to conform, or I'm going to shut the whole thing down, including you."

Sewage spill

The Selectmen also pressed Altshuler on the timetable for removing silt from Laurel Lake and another problem caused by a malfunctioning sewer pump. In a letter to the board, Tri-Town Sanitarian Peter J. Kolodziej reported that sewage had spilled from the pump onto the grounds.

On the 2-year-old silt problem, Altshuler said he is still awaiting a permit from the state to perform a dredging operation — a point that was confirmed by Conservation Commission Chairman Joan D. Clemons. Altshuler said the malfunctioning sewer pump is a "difficult" problem the resort is working to resolve.

"When a problem arises, as soon as we find out about it, we work on it," he said.

The board instructed Lester to compile a list of unfinished work items, making sure in the process that he divorces himself from any matters that concern only Altshuler and the condominium owners. Selectman William D. Bean said he would contact the state on the dredging permit "to see if I can shake it loose."

Lee selectman accuses Altshuler of 'playing games' on silt removal

By William Hunt
Berkshire Eagle Staff

LEE — Selectman William Bean thinks Foxhollow resort owner Donald Altshuler is playing games about removing 225 cubic feet of silt from Laurel Lake.

"We're madder than hell and tired of playing games with them," Bean said in an interview yesterday. He promised a surprise awaits Altshuler and engineer Robert Hoogs, of Foresight Land Services, at the Selectmen's meeting tonight.

Both men are scheduled to explain a three-month discrepancy between December, when they said they applied to the state Department of Environmental Quality Engineering for a dredging permit, and early March, when DEQE records show the agency received the request.

According to Bean, the gap appears to be another Foxhollow delaying tactic. "We've been trying to get them to clean up the silt runoff from their construction site for as long as four years," he said. "According to DEQE there are

\$100,000.

Bean learned of the date gap last week when following through on his offer to pressure DEQE into speeding up Foxhollow's dredging permit application.

"I made calls for help to Lenox Selectman George Darey, who is state Fish and Game chairman, and also got Rep. Christopher Hodgkins to help. Then I talked to DEQE and learned they hadn't gotten the request in the waterways section until March 8," said Bean.

At issue is the buildup of silt in three locations, according to Bean. Darey estimates the silt buildup has lowered the water depth by 3 feet in some shore areas and that it stretches 75 feet out into the lake.

"If Altshuler doesn't straighten it out soon, it will ruin the fishing in Laurel Lake," said Darey, who calls the silt buildup "one of the worst violations I've seen in a long time."

Altshuler, contacted last night, denied the silt buildup began earlier than two years ago and believes that Hoogs applied for the permit in time for the dredging to begin in May of this year.

only certain times of the year when you can dredge, just after the breakup of the ice in the spring before the fish are spawning and again in the fall," said Bean, who fears the dredging permit may not come until November, which will be too late for this fall.

It takes more than two months for a dredging application to go through the public review process and, by applying in March, Bean thinks Altshuler was trying to put off the dredging expense, which a DEQE official estimated might run close to

Foxhollow agrees to take steps to satisfy town's requirements

By William J. Carey
Berkshire Eagle Staff

LEE — Foxhollow will take a number of remedial steps to quell recent criticism by town officials.

Representatives of the condominium resort met last night with the Selectmen and promised to deliver a timetable for removing silt from Laurel Lake and to help the town close illegal kitchens. They said a faulty sewer pump will be repaired and other work items completed to the town's satisfaction.

The pledges were made by a team consisting of attorneys Leonard H. Cohen and C. Jeffrey Cook, engineer Robert E. Hoogs and resort owner Donald I. Altshuler.

Town officials last week questioned the status of the dredging operation, necessitated by silt flow into Laurel Lake, and the presence of at least seven illegal kitchens in privately owned condominiums. Building Inspector Robert W. Lester at that time threatened to "shut the whole thing down" unless the kitchens were removed.

Last night, Selectman William D. Bean pressed the resort to explain the apparent delay in applying for a dredging permit. Living up to his promise to surprise the developer, he also requested that a performance bond be posted to ensure completion of the project, which calls for removing about 20 truckloads of sediment from the lake.

Before applying for the dredging permit, Hoogs said Foxhollow waited for approval from the town of its notice of intent to perform the work. It mailed an application to

the state Division of Waterways last March and was assigned a file number in April. Since then, Hoogs said, the state has taken no other action and agreed only recently to expedite the process.

With winter approaching, the dredging has been put off at least until next spring, he said.

Cohen said Foxhollow is aware of its responsibility to remove the silt and is not stalling for time.

"The longer it takes to get it out, the worse it's going to be for [Altshuler] because it's not going to get any cheaper," he said.

However, the group said it could not deliver a performance bond without first obtaining a dredging permit. The bond would be based on 1½ times the cost of the project, which has yet to be put out to bid. Hoogs said it would be "irresponsible at best" to enter into a contract before knowing when the dredging can begin.

Cook said lending institutions would ask the same questions if Altshuler approached them for the bond money. Instead, the group promised to deliver a timetable for the dredging operation in the next two weeks. It was agreed that at some point, the bond might be reconsidered.

On the issue of the illegal kitchens, Cook said Foxhollow is willing to meet with the town and condominium owners to resolve the situation. He said Foxhollow has no power to force the owners to remove those kitchens.

"Well I'll pull the certificates of occupancy and make them move out," said Lester. "That's the choice they've got."

Lee Selectmen will hold a public hearing on the adopting of fiscal 1989 tax levy percentages Monday, Sept. 26, at 7:30 p.m. at the Airoidi Building on Railroad Street.

Lee officer files suit in Kay-Bee accident

LEE — A town police officer who was struck by a large folding door at the Kay-Bee Toy & Hobby Shops warehouse has filed suit in Berkshire Superior Court against the toy company. Greylock Security Service of Pittsfield and a Spencertown, N.Y., maintenance contractor.

Jeffrey L. Gamelli of One Pike Road, East Otis, was attempting to enter the building Aug. 13 when the garage-like door struck him, badly breaking his right leg and causing other injuries. He spent 18 days in the hospital.

Police Chief Edward J. Finnegan said after the accident that Gamelli was one of two officers responding to a security guard's report that the door was open about 18 inches from the ground. The first officer slipped underneath and pushed a button to raise the door for Gamelli. Instead, it apparently came off its track and struck him.

The court complaint names Gamelli, his wife, Marianne, and 11-month-old son, Jeffrey Jr., as plaintiffs. It seeks damages from each of the three defendants on charges of negligence and loss of spousal and parental companionship.

On the first charge, it alleges that Kay-Bee failed to advise Greylock Security of the hazardous condition of the door and failed to post warnings and prevent access to the area. It says the security service "knew or should have known" of the hazard.

The third defendant, Madsen Overhead Doors of Spencertown, N.Y., was responsible for maintenance of the door and performed work on it the day before the acci-

dent, according to the complaint. It alleges that Madsen was negligent in "causing and/or failing to repair" the faulty door.

The defendants had not been served court papers as of yesterday. C. William DeMyer, a spokesman for Kay-Bee, said the toy company's insurance firm, Liberty Mutual Insurance Companies, would handle the matter. Victor Breen, owner of Greylock Security, declined to comment.

Gamelli's lawyer, J. Michael Conley of Braintree, said it would be premature at this point to make any comment or to disclose the results of an investigation into the accident. He indicated that the town may make its own case to recoup medical expenses and disability pay.

Asked if Lee is contemplating a separate action, Town Counsel Jerome J. Scully said only that, "The town expects to be reimbursed for the expenses involved."

Little Red school sets Apple Fest

WILLIAMSTOWN — The Little Red Schoolhouse, located at the junction of Routes 7 and 43, will hold its annual Apple Fest Saturday from 10 to 4 to benefit its scholarship fund.

There will be pony rides, button-making, hat, pumpkin and face painting, children's games with prizes, a Chinese auction and craft tables. There will also be lunches, baked goods, balloons, T-shirts and used toys for sale.

Asbestos-removal price tag in Lee schools is \$170,100

LEE — The cost of removing asbestos from Lee schools will be \$170,100, according to Superintendent of Schools Henry T. Zukowski.

Zukowski and Buildings and Grounds Superintendent James D. Gralla met this week with the Selectmen to discuss raising the money by way of a town meeting article. While the state may reimburse part of the cost, "there is no guarantee," Zukowski said.

Asbestos is a known carcinogen that was commonly used to insulate heating pipes before it was banned in the 1970s. Federal guidelines call for public school districts to submit plans for removing or encapsulating it.

Gralla said "95 percent" of the asbestos at the high school and elementary school is located in the boiler rooms, where it was used to insulate both pipes and the boiler jackets. The remainder was used in heating ducts in the elementary school basement corridor. Gralla said none of the asbestos poses a threat.

Joining with other South County school districts, Lee obtained the services of Con-Test of East Long-

meadow to perform an asbestos survey that identified the removal cost. Zukowski said the School Committee has voted to remove the material in one shot rather than in stages. It hopes to have the work done by next summer.

In another school-related matter, Zukowski and Gralla said they expect to receive a report this week on core samples of cracked beams at the high school gymnasium.

The cracking was discovered by Architects Inc. of Northampton during a survey of capital improvement needs. The samples were taken by Barry Engineers of Pittsfield in an effort to determine the extent of the damage.

Zukowski said school officials were told the cracked beams "could be a problem" only if excessive weight is placed on the gymnasium roof.

Eagle, Thurs. Sept. 1, 1988

Lee meeting highlights split on hiring full-time manager

By William J. Carey
Berkshire Eagle Staff

LEE — Town representatives, officials and residents appeared split last night on the proposed hiring of a full-time town administrator.

Several of the 25 people who attended a public hearing on the plan were supportive of it. But others questioned the cost and stability of the position along with another facet of the plan to reduce the number of elected officials.

The proposals are contained in a feasibility study performed by David A. Booth, a University of Massachusetts professor and municipal consultant. His recommendations for a full-time administrator and shortened election ballot are endorsed by the Selectmen, who hosted the hearing.

In making those recommendations, Booth said he conducted interviews with key town officials and studied town meeting warrants, Selectmen's minutes and other material. As a result, he found a number of deficiencies in the running of the town.

'Executive tension'

Those include: an "executive tension" between the Selectmen and town meeting representatives, a feared lack of accountability by town officials, poor communications among town boards, no written personnel system, no overall budget-making policy and missed grant opportunities.

"We should not expect a part-time Board of Selectmen, whose members are paid part-time salaries, to provide professional administrative management," said Booth. "It's a totally unrealistic expectation."

The only way to have that professionalism "is to have a full-time person in place," he said. "A full-time presence in Town Hall can bring esprit de corps. It can motivate other employees."

Booth's recommendation calls for an administrator answerable to the Selectmen. The other options would be a town manager with more powers, an administrative assistant or an executive secretary. It also proposes that the post of town clerk and other elected positions be appointive.

The new form of government

would require the passage of a special act by the state Legislature. The Selectmen would have to obtain permission from town meeting representatives to petition for that act.

Most of the people on hand last night were representatives. Some were in favor of the town administrator, some were not.

On the one hand, Representative Francis D. Foley Jr. of Pease Terrace described Booth's study as

'A full-time presence in Town Hall . . . can motivate other employees.'

— Consultant
David A. Booth

"basically a fairly decent report with good recommendations. There needs to be a hell of a lot more coordination and cooperation" in town government.

On the other, Representative William E. Noonan of Cliffwood Street told the consultant, "I don't see some of the problems you've come up with. It seems [the administrator] would be a cure-all for everything, and I don't see how you're going to hire a cure-all."

Noonan also said Booth's projected administrator's salary of \$35,000 to \$45,000 is "misleading" because it fails to account for benefits and other costs.

Booth acknowledged that point and said that even more would be needed to make the Selectmen's secretary full time, another proposal.

Among other people, Planning Board Chairman Sallie Kate Kish said her board favors a "coordinator and communicator. We are definitely looking beyond the executive secretary type."

Town Clerk John J. Nagle said, "I'm entirely against a professional town manager who takes care of everything encompassing the town." Of other communities, he said, "Nobody seems to be impressed with town managers. They have them, but they're not impressed with them."

At 62, Nagle said he probably won't seek another term as clerk. But he said he still opposes the transformation of elected positions to appointed ones.

"Never mind the town clerk's office, you're doing away with home rule when you relinquish" elected positions, he said.

Selectman William D. Bean said later that his board may place a referendum question on the next town election ballot to gauge sentiment. "The overall feeling" of the hearing, he said, was that "we need something."

Eagle, Fri. Oct. 7, 1988

Lee Bank accepting ideas for \$10,000 grant to town

LEE — Richard E. Sitzer, president of Lee Bank, has announced that the bank is now accepting proposals for a one-time \$10,000 community grant. As announced earlier this year, the grant money is being awarded in recognition of the part the local community has played in enabling the bank to exceed the \$100 million mark in total assets.

The grant is to be awarded to one, or possibly to several, human service agencies that will be capable of providing services to the towns of Lee, Stockbridge, Tyngham, Becket or Otis.

Lee Bank, an independent mutual savings bank, was incorporated in 1853 and has two banking offices. The main office is located at 75 Park St. in Lee, and a full-service branch is located on Elm Street in Stockbridge.

The grant proposals will be evaluated by a committee of bank employees according to the following criteria: focus on community needs, potential for positive impact, innovation, cost effectiveness and future funding availability. Applications may be obtained by contacting David J. Bruce, executive vice president at Lee Bank. Applications must be submitted by Dec. 1, and the funding will be awarded by Dec. 30.

Eagle, Tues. Oct. 18, 1988

Lee receives free-cash windfall, but officials question amount

p. 80.

By William J. Carey
Berkshire Eagle Staff

LEE — The town may have \$500,000 in free cash, 10 times what it expected. But doubtful town officials want to confirm the figure before spending any money.

The revelation was made last night by Finance Committee Chairman Robert B. Trask, who told the Selectmen that he has received a letter from the state certifying the apparent windfall. Town officials had anticipated having about \$58,000 in free cash and were caught off guard by the welcome news, which the town itself has yet to confirm.

Trask speculated that some of the windfall — if, indeed, there is a windfall — resulted from now-forgotten state reimbursements. Other than that, he said, "I just can't imagine where the money came from."

Free cash is derived from unspent funds and unexpected revenues and is available to help pay municipal expenses. The Finance Committee, in making recommendations for this year's annual town meeting, had warned that the amount of free cash was considerably depleted from the \$1.1 million available two years ago. Because of this, the committee warned, the budget would rely more on property taxes for income.

Asbestos

The topic of last night's discussion was how to raise the \$170,000 necessary to remove asbestos from the high school and elementary school. School officials are pushing for a speedy appropriation of the money via a special town meeting. That way, the district can "get in line" for a state reimbursement of up to 75 percent of the cost, according to Superintendent of Schools Henry T. Zukowski.



William J. Carey
Adrien Kohlenberger
New police officer

In addition, Building and Grounds Superintendent James D. Gralla said Lee has been ordered by the state to overhaul its school boilers, a job that cannot be done until the asbestos is removed.

When the talk turned to other potential sources of revenue, Trask mentioned that he had received a letter from the state Department of Revenue certifying that Lee has \$500,000 in free cash. It was agreed to postpone discussion of the asbestos project until that figure is confirmed.

Also last night, Assessor John E. Loring announced that his board has set a fiscal 1989 tax rate of \$15 per thousand of assessed value, up \$2.10 over last year's rate. The rate applies to both commercial and residential properties.

Loring attributed the jump to increased spending by the town and

decreased funding by the state. Of the new tax rate, \$8.10 represents general funding and \$6.90 school funding, he said. The tax bills will go out this week.

In another matter, the Selectmen announced the appointment of Adrien Kohlenberger, 28, of 42 St. James Ave. as the Police Department's ninth officer. Kohlenberger holds a master's degree in criminal justice from American International College and was described as an "excellent candidate" by the board. He was chosen from a field of four applicants who had passed the Civil Service test.

Selectmen Chairman Christopher A. Salinetti said he believes that Kohlenberger will be sent for training to the police academy at Agawam. That facility is being scrutinized after 16 cadets were hospitalized for overexertion.

Salinetti said the town "has a lot of concerns" about the training but is satisfied that state Rep. Christopher J. Hodgkins, D-Lee, and Police Chief Edward J. Finnegan are playing a role in bringing about improvements to the system.

Eagle, Wed. Oct. 19, 1988

Oak n' Spruce loses promo case

Disney World promises not kept, judge rules

By Stephen Fay
Berkshire Eagle Staff

LEE — A District Court judge Monday ordered the Oak n' Spruce Resort in South Lee to pay a Lenox man \$421.25 for failing to make good on a Disney World vacation prize package used to induce the man to sit through a condominium sales pitch.

Paul Silberman of 2 Sherwood Drive brought the small claims action against Oak n' Spruce after the "Florida Disney World vacation" he was given for attending a sales pitch turned out to be five days and four nights in an unspecified motel or hotel in Kissimmee, Fla.

Kissimmee is about 15 miles southeast of Disney World, which is in Orlando.

Silberman, who represented himself before Judge James P. Dohoney, said there were significant differences between the promise and the reality of the Oak n' Spruce offer. He produced the mailing he received from the resort, which was stamped "verification notice," and noted that the mailing stated unequivocally that he and his wife had won either a 1987 Ford Taurus or a Disney World vacation.

The verification notice, which required the recipient to come to Oak n' Spruce for a sales presentation in order to claim his prize, stated that the Disney World package involved five days and four nights of accommodations for up to four people and \$100 in spending money.

After listening to the Oak n' Spruce timeshare condominium sales presentation, Silberman said he was directed by a staffer to the resort's office to pick up information about his trip. The accommodations, it turned out, were for two adults and two children. The reservation form stipulated arrivals on Sunday or Monday only and required three alternative arrival dates ("allowing 21 days between each date. Failure to provide three arrival date selections will seriously affect our ability to confirm one of your choices").

An accompanying information sheet dis-

Oak n' Spruce
Continued on Page B7

Oak n' Spruce loses

Oct. 19, 1988

Continued from Page B1

couraged reservations around Christmas, Washington's Birthday and spring break. The reservation form had to be completed in 21 days or the offer was void. The reservation had to be accompanied by a non-refundable "reservation processing fee" of \$8.75 payable by certified check or money order — no personal checks would be accepted, the document stated.

On confirmation of a specific arrival date, a refundable deposit of \$40 was required to hold the reservation.

Silberman said he found the restrictions "impossible." Also, he complained, Kissimmee isn't Disney World.

He said he expressed his displeasure to Oak n' Spruce but got no satisfaction. He called the state attorney general's office to register his complaint and then brought a small claims action against the resort.

Silberman asked for damages of \$1,320. He said he had done some research and calculated that this was how much it would cost for five days and four nights at one of the hotels at Disney World, along with admission fees and other related costs for four adults.

Attorney John T. Snow of Barnstable, who represented Oak n' Spruce at Monday's hearing, rebutted Silberman's contentions.

"It is our position," Snow said, "that we have fulfilled the terms of the offer."

He said "everybody who goes to Disney World," or at least a large number of those who go there, "stays at Kissimmee." He said

"very few people actually stay on the grounds of Disney World."

The judge asked if the switch from four people to two adults and two children didn't represent "a little shift in the terms."

Snow said adults usually bring children to Disney World.

"I don't think that's misleading," Snow said.

"I can't believe this whole thing," Silberman said. "Kissimmee isn't Disney World."

Snow said it is "common parlance" that going to Disney World means going to Kissimmee.

"I don't think there's any misrepresentation," Snow said. "It's a case of misinterpretation."

Dohoney, who took the case under advisement before issuing a written ruling, decided that Silberman was owed the difference between the rates for a Kissimmee motel and a Disney World hotel room. Dohoney said he figured the difference was about \$100 a day. He multiplied that by four nights and added \$21.25 in costs for Silberman and came up with \$421.25.

Silberman "was promised a Disney World vacation," Dohoney wrote, "but was not given accommodations associated with Disney World."

Silberman said last night he was pleased Oak n' Spruce was being penalized. But he said he was "a little disappointed" that Dohoney hadn't gone for the entire \$1,320 that Silberman had calculated. He said Oak n' Spruce had made a promise and failed to fulfill that promise.

"It's just not nice," he said.

There was no answer at Snow's Barnstable law office last night.

Lee ponders woodland options

Eagle - Wed. Oct. 26, 1988

LEE — The town is holding up the sale of a large parcel off Tyringham Road while it decides whether to exercise its right of first refusal.

The property, 105 acres of wooded slope on the east side of Tyringham Road, is owned by Frank and Marion Carrington of East Street. It is reportedly being sold to Berkshire Woodlands Corp.

However, the town by law has the right to first refusal of the property because the Carringtons were granted a tax abatement.

In a recent letter to the Selectmen, Town Counsel Jerome J. Scully said the town has 120 days after notification to waive that right, purchase the property at the proposed sale price or assign its option to a non-profit organization. That period ends Jan. 23, he said.

The Selectmen this week referred the matter to the Department of Public Works, although Chairman Christopher A. Salinetti conceded that no money is currently available to buy the land. One suggestion put forward at the meeting was to consult the Berkshire Natural Resources Council about purchasing it.

Last year, the Carringtons sold 137 acres on the other side of the road to the Hale family of Tyringham. The Hales would like to have that parcel accepted into the state's Agricultural Preservation Restriction program, in which the state purchases development rights to preserve the land.

However, the state has asked for a matching contribution of about \$13,000 from the town. The Selectmen, while supporting the plan, said town meeting representatives probably would not approve the funding. Another option suggested by Selectman William D. Bean was to reduce the tax assessment on the land over several years. That is being explored.

GE donates 2 locomotives to Scenic Railroad

Eagle, Sat. Oct. 22, 1988

By William J. Carey
Berkshire Eagle Staff

LEE — GE, no longer in need of locomotives to haul power transformers, has donated two of its iron horses to the Berkshire Scenic Railroad Museum.

The transaction yesterday culminated two years of negotiations between GE and the non-profit, all-volunteer tourist line. It was celebrated with a press conference and plaque award at the museum's rented rail yard off Canal Street.

Both GE and the museum officials declined to specify the value of the bright yellow locomotives.

"They're worth their weight in gold to us," said a pleased John W. Herbert, the museum's president. "They're in excellent shape. They're pristine beauties."

The larger locomotive, a center-cab known as "Number 8," was one of the last of a series of locomotives built in Erie, Pa., in 1967. At 110 tons and 900 horsepower, it will be the most powerful vehicle in the museum's fleet.

Herbert said the vehicle will be the "workhorse" of next year's tourist season.



TRAIN BUFFS John W. Herbert, left, president of the Berkshire Scenic Railway Museum, and R. Bruce Farren, GE's manager of community relations stand before one of two former GE locomotives.

The second locomotive, "Number 6," is a 98-ton vehicle built in 1940. Both were used by GE in Pittsfield for shipping and receiving materials, including power transformers,

which the company no longer builds. They arrived in Lee Thursday accompanied by spare parts and operating manuals. The trip from Pittsfield took four hours.

"The nature of the product mix change in Pittsfield eliminated the need for them," said R. Bruce Farren, GE's manager of community relations. "I think the size of our products now is such that they are trucked."

In a press release, the company said, "These locomotives have served our business well. With plenty of life left in them it makes

sense that the citizens of Berkshire County and the many visitors to this area should gain the use of this equipment."

The 5-year-old railway museum now has 18 vehicles and will concentrate on renovating the historic Lenox Station, its future headquarters. It rents space from the Dresser-Hull Co. in a close-knit neighborhood that complained this summer of noise and diesel fumes from the growing operation.

"We won't be getting any more rolling stock," said Herbert. "The big thing is the Lenox Station."

Eagle-Tuesday, Oct. 25, 1988

Lee Selectmen favor recycling town trash

By William J. Carey
Berkshire Eagle Staff

LEE — The Selectmen are in favor of bringing Lee into a state-sponsored recycling facility in Springfield — an arrangement that requires homeowners to separate their trash.

The board last night voted to support the passage of a town recycling bylaw and other steps necessary to join the "materials recovery facility" scheduled to break ground in the next few weeks. The decision was backed by the Department of Public Works and Nelson L. Daley, one of the town's trash haulers.

Steven Ellis, the regional recycling director for the state Department of Environmental Quality Engineering, said the facility will process, clean and market paper products, glass and metal containers from the four western counties. He said towns are being accepted on a first-come, first-served basis, and that some room still remains to join. Several other South County towns have already indicated their willingness to do so.

Bylaw needed

Ellis said that in order to join, the town must pass a mandatory recycling bylaw requiring homeowners to separate their trash. A public education program must be developed in conjunction with the bylaw. The town also is responsible for collecting the trash and delivering it to Springfield.

The biggest incentive, Ellis said, is that no tipping fee will be charged when the trash is dropped off. In addition, he said the town's overall waste stream will be reduced by 20 percent, which will prolong the life of the municipal landfill.

Selectman William D. Bean questioned whether the new system would have the effect of putting some trash haulers out of business. Lee has at least three haulers who

deal directly with their customers instead of the town.

Ellis said having several haulers is "obviously more difficult" than dealing with just one on a contractual basis.

"The bottom line," he said, "is you tell the haulers you're not going to accept unseparated materials in the landfill — period."

Daley said haulers can adjust by using separate trailers for glass, metal and paper. He also anticipated no great protest on the part of homeowners.

"You won't put anyone out of business," he said. "We'll just do it. We should recycle anyway."

DPW Chairman David M. Parker said there is "very little risk" to joining the facility because it doesn't preclude other types of collection programs or the ability to sell recyclable materials elsewhere.

"You can't say 'no' to a guaranteed place to take away 20 percent of your waste," he advised the board.

Parker said the 14-town Southern Berkshire Solid Waste Committee, of which he is a member, may be able to obtain funding for a joint transportation program in which the trash is delivered to Springfield.

In other business, Selectmen Chairman Christopher A. Salinetti asked for a full accounting of the town's cost in resolving a grievance filed by the Lee Education Association. The grievance involves high school teacher Thomas F. Cinella, who has failed to win appointment from the School Committee as coach of the girls' varsity basketball team.

"I'd like to know how much this fiasco with Tom Cinella is costing the town," said Salinetti, who called the situation a "frivolity."

Also, the town has scheduled Halloween trick-or-treat for next Monday between 5:30 and 7:30 p.m. A party will follow at Lee Central School for all ages up to the 4th grade.

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Eagle, Sat. Oct. 22, 1988



Joel Librizzi

This is the steeple

The First Congregational Church steeple in Lee will be repaired with help from a \$45,000 matching grant from the Massachusetts Historical Commission. Marking approval of the funding, left to right, John E. Arnold of the Historical Preservation Committee; the Rev. Walter S. Ryan, former minister; state Rep. Christopher J. Hodgkins, D-Lee; the Rev. Mary Moschella; Elsa Fitzgerald, acting director of the state historical commission, and state Sen. Peter C. Webber, R-Pittsfield.

Eagle, Mon. Oct. 31, 1988



Susanna Cooper

MOVING BILLBOARD featuring photos of missing children has been created by Ronald F. Robinson of Lee, who is hoping to offer his services through a non-profit corporation.

Lee resident offering help for missing or troubled kids

By Susanna Cooper
Berkshire Eagle Staff

LEE — Ronald F. Robinson has turned his little red car into a mobile billboard by taping missing-children posters to its windows. People glance at the posters as he drives by, and when he is parked, they often stop to read descriptions and examine pictures of children who have been missing for weeks, months, or as long as 10 years.

On a miniature, amateur level, Robinson is providing the same information service he would like to transform into a bonafide non-profit corporation.

Most children's aid agencies are operated from offices and require the child to make a phone call to ask for help. Robinson sees a more effective approach in running his program on the street. "That's where the communication gap is," he said.

"I want to create a readily accessible information base," he says, "so kids don't have to go through the operator or an answering machine."

Posters designed

Robinson's idea is to buy a small mobile home or van and to plaster it with posters and information about services for children and teenagers who are lost, abused or in trouble. He has designed more than 100 black and white posters, depicting different ways in which children are lured into dangerous situations. He would display the posters on the mobile home or van.

"It's advertising," he says, "it works."

Robinson, 45, is a relative newcomer to Berkshire

County, having lived his entire life in western New York until he moved here last year. He planned to start his program, called Missing Kids Inc., in Lockport, N.Y., but his move, spurred by divorce, set his project back by about two years, Robinson estimates.

He has been in the child care field since 1965 and now works as a counselor in a halfway house operated by the Kolburne School in New Marlboro. He has no children of his own.

Robinson says that, as far as he can tell, Lee does not have an unusual number of children visibly in need of help. "This is not a depressed area, but it's not Monte Carlo either," he said.

Because it is a small town and many of the people born here remain, he says, abused or runaway children often turn to relatives for help. Children in larger cities are usually more isolated and are more likely to take to the street, he says.

The children who need to know that help exists won't find it in a pamphlet on the counter of their local bookstore, Robinson says, because they don't go to bookstores.

He says kidnapped children are often drugged and "kept stupid" by their captors. They are isolated from the rest of the world and, because newspapers and television are not readily available to them, they don't read or hear about agencies that help people in situations similar to their own.

His next step is to find an attorney to help him incorporate in his new state. "It's too good an idea to let go," Robinson says.

DA joins Lee school sex assault probe

By William J. Carey
Berkshire Eagle Staff

LEE — The Berkshire County district attorney's office is reviewing two separate investigations of an alleged incident of sexual abuse at Lee Central School.

The state Department of Social Services and Lee Police confirmed this week that they have completed their investigations and turned their findings over to the district attorney. They refused to make any further comment.

Frederick A. Lantz, the district attorney's spokesman, earlier this week said the police

report had been received and "we're looking into it." He was not asked about the state's report at that time, and he declined to discuss specifics of the case, including the possibility of charges.

The allegations came to light last month when concerned parents confronted the School Committee about rumors that at least one child had been molested, apparently in a basement restroom. The committee acknowledged that an investigation was indeed taking place. It reportedly involves a school employee. The alleged victim is a girl, according to parents familiar with the case.

Lee Police said they were informed anonymously of the alleged abuse Oct. 9 and found the DSS already involved. The state reportedly was notified by a doctor who had examined the girl.

Carolyn M. Burns, area director of the DSS, said her office is finished with the investigation unless further action is required. She said she has offered her assistance to the School Department to hold meetings with parents, some of whom have called the state office with questions.

"I'd like the community to know that we're a resource," she said.

Lee has a sizable cash surplus, but . . .

By William J. Carey
Berkshire Eagle Staff

LEE — The town has 10 times more free cash than it was expecting, but there is little chance of a Christmas shopping spree.

Finance Committee Chairman Robert B. Trask said last night it appears certain that the town has \$500,000 in excess monies from the previous fiscal year, far more than the \$50,000 it anticipated. Despite the windfall, he and at least one other town official advised that fiscal restraint should be observed.

"What we need to do is put a little money away so we don't have a huge tax increase like we did this year," Trask said, referring to the 16 percent raise in the tax rate.

"I agree with Bob," said Selectman William

D. Bean. "Since we do have it, and it was unexpected, we should hold on to it."

Free cash represents unspent or surplus funds. It is calculated by the state Department of Revenue based on a balance sheet provided by the town after the close of the fiscal year.

The Finance Committee, expecting much less of a windfall, had advised town officials this year to budget accordingly or depend on the tax levy. It was a pleasant surprise when the state certified a half million dollars in free cash.

Officials doubtful

Town officials understandably were doubtful, and it was half seriously suggested that the state had misplaced a decimal point. No one is quite sure where the money came from. Trask

said part of it may be the result of increased fees and fines collected by the departments.

Assessor John E. Loring still has doubts. "It seems to me to be a floating figure," he said last night. "You can never seem to pin it down."

Town Accountant Mary Lou Dadak, pointing out that the state method of calculating free cash is complicated, said the surplus is "really not a surprise." She noted that the town had more than \$1 million to its credit two years ago.

Even though the money would cover about half the bill of proposed renovations to Memorial Hall — the subject of a ballot question in Tuesday's election — there will be no spending spree.

Lee faces \$17 million in capital expenditures

By William J. Carey
Berkshire Eagle Staff

LEE — Anticipating its future needs, the town is facing up to \$17 million in capital expenditures over the next several years.

Town officials emphasize that cost estimates of the major projects are ballpark at best and subject to change. And some of those projects could be eligible for state reimbursement.

But for the purpose of setting its sights, the town's Capital Outlay Committee is contemplating up to \$5 million for an expansion of the Woodland Road landfill, up to \$4 million for a water filtration plant, \$3 million for a new emergency center and renovations to Memorial Hall and the Airoldi Building, \$2.4 million for modifications to the sewer plant, \$1.5 million for public works and \$1 million for school repairs.

The committee will meet with department heads and town meeting representatives Nov. 15 to describe the process by which it plans to obtain more precise cost estimates, construction timetables and financing options. From there, town officials will attempt to coordinate the projects.

"We're trying to come up with some numbers," said

committee Chairman John E. DeVarennes. "There's all kinds of 'what ifs' at this stage."

It appears that the landfill expansion, the emergency center and the school repairs are the farthest ahead in the planning stages, although this does not guarantee they will have priority in a comprehensive building program.

Department of Public Works Superintendent J. Peter Scoloro said the DPW board will meet with engineers from the Easthampton firm of Tighe & Bond Monday to consider a basic proposal for the landfill expansion, which he said is "certainly the first on our list."

The department is not jumping the gun. The present landfill, closed to commercial waste in 1985, will be filled with household garbage in two years.

The expansion would increase the life of the landfill by 15 years and possibly more when combined with recycling and composting. It requires the purchase of abutting property from Lane Construction Co. of Meriden, Conn. Scoloro said the DPW wants to seek approval for the expansion soon, possibly by next May's annual town meeting.

The price of the emergency center and related renovations to Memorial Hall and the Airoldi Building was pinned down after more than a year's work by a

special committee. The project is described in a \$9,000 study by Architects Inc. of Northampton. It has already gone before the voters and lost.

On Tuesday's election ballot, voters will be asked to approve an exemption from the taxing limit of Proposition 2½ for one-third of the project: an estimated \$1 million in renovations to Memorial Hall. Both the Selectmen and the Lee Police Association want that question passed.

Meanwhile, the School Department is nearing the completion of a two-year assessment of its needs.

Buildings and Grounds Superintendent James D. Gralla said the resulting capital improvements study, also done by Architects Inc., is the first full compilation of needed repairs at Lee High and Central schools. It lists 40 problem areas, from a kitchen cooler at the high school to the 100-year-old slate roof of the Central School's Hyde Wing. The cost of correcting these problems is estimated at \$981,149, assuming the recommendations of the architect are followed.

Gralla said he could not speak for the seven-member school building needs committee that prepared the study. But he said he assumed it would "go with the book," meaning the full range of the repairs, when it makes recommendations to the School Committee. He

said school officials, along with the DPW, want to proceed with something by next spring.

Other big-ticket items are the sewer expansion and the water filtration plant. Scoloro said his office has a draft copy of a report on the sewer expansion from SEA Consultants of Cambridge. It describes modifications to the existing plant that would increase its capacity by 30 percent without major construction.

Based on the town's growth, it may be determined that more of an expansion, costing several million dollars, is needed. In the meantime, the DPW is conducting an infiltration-inflow study to determine the extent of unwanted water entering the sewer system. By repairing the system, it can reduce pressure on the sewer plant.

The water filtration plant mandated by the state and federal governments is supposed to be in place by 1992. However, Scoloro said that deadline is unrealistic because the town's Washington Mountain Brook project, a water-sharing program with Lenox, will have only been on line for a year. He said the building and operation of a filtration plant will take another five years. The cost will be reflected in water rates, which are expected to double.

Eagle, Nov. 8, 1989 - Tues.



MEMORIAL HALL at the corner of Main Street and Park Place in Lee would be renovated if voters approve Question 5 on today's election ballot.

William J. Carey

Lee voters will act again on Memorial Hall renovation

By William J. Carey
Berkshire Eagle Staff

LEE — The proposed renovation of the Civil War Memorial Town Hall, one of the town's most significant historical buildings, once again is being presented to the voters.

Question 5 on today's election ballot seeks permission to exempt the cost of the renovation — estimated at \$1 million — from the taxing limit of Proposition 2½. The Selectmen and the Lee Police Association are asking for a "yes" vote on this question.

Built in 1874 as a memorial to Civil War veterans, the stately, cornerstone of a building is home to the Lee District Court, the town clerk's office, the police and communications departments and other offices. According to a committee that was formed to study it, the building is "deteriorating" and inaccessible to the handicapped.

Court, police unhappy

The district court, which occupies about half of the first floor, and the police and communications departments, which share the basement, are known to be dissatisfied with their quarters. It has long been feared that the court will abandon Lee and consolidate in Great Barrington, where it spends part of the week.

The renovation calls for a new stairwell on the north side of the building, a lift for the handicapped and a new elevator. The court would be given a floor to itself, and town offices would be reorganized. The police already have a plan to reallocate space in the basement.

If approved, town officials said the renovation would add approximately \$1 to the tax rate, depending on the term of a bond issued to finance it. This year, the tax rate jumped from \$12.90 to \$15 per thousand of assessed value. Surprisingly, it is still below the limit

allowed by Proposition 2½. However, the town faces a number of major projects costing up to \$17 million over the next several years.

\$3 million plan

Until recently, Memorial Hall was the centerpiece of a \$3 million plan to improve and reorganize town services — a plan that envisions a new emergency center on Main Street. To finance that, a similar exemption from the taxing limit was presented to the voters last May. It was defeated 261 to 177.

At a special town meeting a month later, the Selectmen sought to borrow \$1 million for Memorial Hall alone. During the course of the debate, the request was narrowed to \$200,000 for repairing just the roof. That amount was barely turned down for lack of a two-thirds majority needed to borrow.

Edward L. Jendry of Architects Inc., the firm hired to study the building, was asked if it would "fall down" if the town waited another year for a wide-ranging capital needs study. He said "probably not," but added that after a few years, "it will just rot away and eventually collapse."

'Long overdue'

To forestall that fate, the Selectmen placed Question 5 on today's ballot. Selectman Diane P. Roosa, a member of the Memorial Hall renovation committee, said the renovation is "long overdue." However, she conceded that approval is doubtful based on the past history of the plan.

The Lee Police Association also is pushing for approval and has prepared a flyer asking for the voters' "consideration" of the matter.

Voting takes place at the Senior Center on Railroad Street from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. The entrance to the building will be from Eaton Street across from the post office.

Lee, Lenox seek cleanup of Laurel Lake

By William J. Carey
Berkshire Eagle Staff

LEE — The towns of Lee and Lenox have formed an eight-member Laurel Lake Clean Lakes Committee dedicated to cleaning and maintaining the heavily used lake.

Two members of the committee obtained approval from the Selectmen last night to proceed with an application for up to \$75,000 in state funds to perform a study of the lake, which is shared by the two towns. The application deadline is today.

The Selectmen also announced that the Kimberly-Clark Corp., which owns water rights to the lake, has agreed to the study providing it does not affect the quality or quantity of the water used by the company for papermaking.

Laurel Lake is plagued by summertime weeds, and, to a lesser degree, sediment runoff from the Foxhollow Resort. The latter problem is expected to be resolved by a dredging operation.

Last month, Lenox Selectmen John J. Pignatelli and George L. Darey met with their counterparts in Lee to expedite the forming of a joint committee. If the state grant is awarded in January, that committee will administer the funds much like the county committee that oversees Pontoosuc Lake in Pittsfield and Lanesboro.

Pignatelli said it is time to "seize the bull by the horns" on the lake, while Darey promised to attend "as many meetings as I can."

Also attending that meeting was Crystal A. Shelley of the Berkshire County Regional Planning Commission. She helped prepare the grant application and urged the two towns to form a committee.

The members of that committee are: Deidre M. Consolati of Lee, chairman; Pignatelli and Darey; Richard and Ann Phillips of Lenox, homeowners on the lake; Ronald Gilbert of Foxhollow; Roger Schurer of Kimberly-Clark, and Joan D. Clemons, chairman of the Lee Conservation Commission.

In a press release issued last night, Consolati said, "Our common love for the lake transcends town lines and property bounds. We are speaking for a lake whose voice has not been heard. Our shared goal is to restore the lake to her former beauty and balance."

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Lee School Committee appoints Cinella as coach — begrudgingly

By William J. Carey
Berkshire Eagle Staff

LEE — In a ruling marked by bitter and pointed reactions, the School Committee last night voted to resolve a teachers' union grievance by appointing Thomas F. Cinella as coach of the girls' varsity basketball team at Lee High School.

One member of the committee, Edward M. Lahey, said Cinella was a "detriment" when he coached the boys' varsity team because he favored his son over other players. Cinella was not present for the meeting.

Lahey voted to resolve the grievance but said, "Do not interpret this vote as a vote for Tom."

Two candidates

The decision ended nearly three months of wrangling over the part-time coaching position formerly held by Sally Maish. Two men, junior varsity coach Kevin J. Morandi, owner of the Clip 'n Snip barber shop on Main Street, and Cinella, a 27-year veteran teacher, stepped forward to succeed her. Cinella was recommended to the School Committee by Superintendent of Schools Henry T. Zukowski, High School Principal Richard T. Salinetti and Athletic Director Richard P. Lenfest.

But the committee, in repeated 4-2 votes, rejected the appointment. The members who steadfastly opposed it were Lahey, Margaret M. Biron, Carol E. LePrevost and Patricia D. Carlino. Those who voted in favor of the appointment were Judith L. Olds, the committee chairman, and Joseph C. Savery.

When the appointment was first discussed Aug. 30, Olds stated that she had attended boys' basketball games in which Cinella had concentrated on his son, Peter, a star guard who plays now for Western New England College in Springfield. Though she favored the appointment, she advised that "parents cannot coach their children" — an apparent reference to Cinella's daughter, a freshman who also plays basketball.

But the committee's reasons were never explained to the satisfaction of Cinella's supporters. Last month, the Lee Education Association filed a grievance on his behalf, alleging that by its actions, the school board had violated its contract with teachers.

Last night, Olds read a four-point resolution of the grievance hammered out with the LEA. It holds that Cinella shall be appointed the girls' varsity coach, and that "top priority" will be given to establishing a formal evaluation process for coaching and extra-curricular positions. That process shall apply

for all future appointments. Finally, the committee and LEA agreed to a joint disclosure of the resolution.

Voting in favor of the resolution were Lahey, Carlino, Savery and Olds. Opposed were Biron and LePrevost.

In a prepared statement, Lahey said he changed sides only to avoid going to arbitration over the grievance.

In a prepared statement, he said the School Committee's vote on the actual appointment "has not changed one iota from the beginning. Seven times we voted no to this appointment. Four people on this committee don't want to see Tom be the girls' basketball coach, and the only way he is getting this is because of the grievance filed on his behalf, although I still personally don't feel this is a grievable situation."

Lahey said he had explained his reasons to Cinella privately but would make those reasons public now that Cinella and the LEA had pressed the issue.

"Through the years, many boys felt he had pre-planned who was going to play for him and that only those students would have a chance to make the team," Lahey said. "He deliberately set up the team so that his son became the star and that other players were merely pawns set up to assist him."

The appointment was further blasted by a parent, Mary W. Retzel, who described the school system as "sick." Retzel said her own two sons were good athletes who never received the recognition they deserved while playing under Cinella. One of those sons, Richard, was one of two Lee youths who drowned in Laurel Lake after a fight with seven Lenox youths in 1981.

As a result of last night's ruling, Mary Retzel said, "I'm almost sorry I have a scholarship in my son's memory at this school."

Morandi turned in his resignation as junior varsity coach and refused the committee's request to reconsider. He also stepped down as junior varsity softball coach.

"I view this act as a personal insult and very demeaning, not only to me, but to members of my family," he said in a one-page statement. "The use of back-door politics to make this appointment is most

certainly no way for the school administration to teach our children the act of fair play. I am very sorry you have had to resort to these types of tactics to name a coach. However, I wish all the children well in their future endeavors, despite the goings-on of late."

Lee officials to make pitch for keeping court offices

By William J. Carey
Berkshire Eagle Staff

LEE — Disappointed by the pending withdrawal of district court offices, the town will make a "sales pitch" next Tuesday in an effort to keep the court from moving entirely.

The Selectmen have scheduled a 7 p.m. meeting that day with the Memorial Hall Study Committee, the Finance Committee, the Capital Outlay Committee and Judge Robert J. Donelan, first justice of the Southern Berkshire District Court. The public is invited.

Selectman William D. Bean said the meeting was called to acquaint Donelan and others with the town's plan to renovate Memorial Hall, which houses the district court, the Lee Police Department and other town offices. The meeting may help to forestall the feared consolidation of the court in Great Barrington, Bean said.

Offices moved

On Monday, Donelan announced that the probation and clerk-magistrate's offices will be moved to the former Dewey School in Great Barrington, where the court spends part of the week. He also announced a revised court schedule increasing court time in Lee by 50 percent. However, that schedule is to be reviewed after 60 days.

Before reaching his decision, Donelan said he consulted with his colleague, Judge James P. Dohoney, the court staff, the regional administrative justice, most of the South County police chiefs and the Berkshire County district attorney's office.

He also noted that 21 lawyers — "virtually all of the bar in South County excluding the town of Lee" — had backed the old schedule, putting two-thirds of the court days in Great Barrington.

In their petition, the lawyers had cited "the higher case load in Great Barrington and the disadvantages of the deteriorating and hopelessly inadequate facilities in Lee," Donelan said.

\$1 million renovation

Memorial Hall was built in 1874 as a memorial to Lee soldiers who served in the Civil War. The town has long sought to improve the building both for the court and its own offices. On Nov. 8, voters approved a question that would allow the town to exempt the cost of a renovation, estimated at \$1 million, from the taxing limit of Proposition 2½. District representatives must approve borrowing the money at a special town meeting slated for Dec. 19.

After hearing of the court's decision Monday, the Selectmen were disappointed but undeterred. They said the renovation of Memorial Hall will proceed as planned, assuming it is approved next month.

"It has to be fixed, no matter what the court does," Bean said. "I don't think this is the end of it."

Selectman Diane P. Roosa, who serves on the Memorial Hall Study Committee, said the town will explore other options for filling the building, such as relocating town offices now in the Airolti Building.

Asked if next Tuesday's meeting is an effort to keep the court in town, Bean said yesterday, "We're going to give it a shot. I don't think the court is fully aware of the \$1 million and what can be done with that building. We feel that alone deserves a hearing."

As part of its "sales pitch," Bean said, the town is willing to offer the top two floors of the building for the court's use. Initial plans called for clearing out one floor only. The

court currently uses about half of the first floor of the building.

"It's not going to come for nothing," Bean said, noting that the court's rent of \$346-a-month would probably increase.

The town's Police Department and state Rep. Christopher J. Hodgkins, D-Lee, are among those who would like to see the court stay in town. Attorney Jessie Doyle Deely, one of six Lee attorneys, called the partial withdrawal "unfortunate." She said there are plenty of lawyers from Pittsfield and Lenox who will be inconvenienced by longer drives to Great Barrington.

"I can understand Judge Donelan's reasons," she said. "I just wish there was some way of preserving the court in Lee."

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Probation office to stay in Lee, says chief justice

By William J. Carey
Berkshire Eagle Staff

LEE — The chief justice of the state's district court system has decided that Lee shall keep its probation office.

Judge Samuel E. Zoll this week spared the probation office from being moved to Great Barrington. The move had been recommended by Judge Robert J. Donelan, first justice of the Southern Berkshire District Court, as part of a consolidation of court services. The court is shared by both Lee and Great Barrington.

State Rep. Christopher J. Hodgkins, D-Lee, opposed the move and went to Zoll with his concerns. He argued yesterday that "single mothers, hourly wage earners" and other people using the probation office from Lee and nearby towns would have been hard pressed traveling to Great Barrington. The Lee office handles about 170 cases a month.

"I'm a legislator trying to fight for services," he said. "Let's not deny access to the people who use this court."

Schedule announced

The proposed move of the Lee probation office, as well as that of the clerk magistrate's office, was contained in a revised schedule announced Monday by Donelan. That schedule calls for additional court time in Lee, the result of a legislative proviso inserted by Hodgkins in the state budget. The schedule will be reviewed in 60 days.

Explaining the consolidation of offices, Donelan cited both a shortage of manpower and the superior facilities of Great Barrington's Dewey School, where the court sits. He said the court is prohibited from hiring new help and simply cannot maintain separate offices in both towns.

In Lee, the court occupies part of the Civil War Memorial Town Hall, a 114-year-old building that is known to be deteriorating. Town officials are pressing for a \$1 million renovation that would improve and

enlarge the facilities of the court along with those of the Police Department and other offices sharing the building. The present quarters of the court and police are widely recognized as inadequate.

"If the court is to deliver the quality of service the community deserves and has received in the past, we must make the most practical and efficient use of our dedicated employees," Donelan said in announcing the revised schedule.

"As it is, we had fewer personnel when fully staffed than other district courts with comparable case loads. Common sense, prudent management and in the end, necessity, require the concentration of a dwindling staff in the courthouse with the space and facilities to do the job. That means Great Barrington."

But Hodgkins argued yesterday that moving the probation office

would only inconvenience people while saving nothing. He said he contacted Zoll after Donelan refused to consider an alternative solution.

"The problem is that courthouses become kingdoms," he said. "And they don't serve the people they're supposed to serve."

Donelan last night said he put forward the revised schedule as a recommendation. He said he was neither surprised nor disappointed by Zoll's action. "That's what I have a chief justice for," he said. "He's my superior, and that's his decision."

When he announced the revised schedule, Donelan said he was aware that some people would be dissatisfied, especially Hodgkins. He said Hodgkins wanted the probation office left in Lee, and "clearly the chief justice agreed with him. I can live with that."

Foxhollow owner withdraws request for kitchen variance

By William J. Carey
Berkshire Eagle Staff

LEE — The owner of a Foxhollow condominium with an illegal second kitchen last night withdrew his request for a variance from the Zoning Board of Appeals.

Roger Cassin of Brookline elected to withdraw after being advised that the Selectmen, rather than the ZBA, have authority over the special permit granted to Foxhollow. That permit is being violated by the installation of seven second kitchens, according to Building Inspector Robert W. Lester.

Cassin, explaining the presence of his extra kitchen in the basement, said he bought his condominium "with representations that I could do that." ZBA Chairman George E. Frulla then asked him who made those representations.

"The developer . . . the seller of the unit," Cassin replied.

Sink removal ordered

Cassin's appeal for a variance followed an Aug. 29 letter in which Lester ordered him to remove his kitchen sink and to disconnect the electrical service to his stove. Failure to comply, Lester said, would result in his occupancy permit being revoked. Similar letters were sent to the other offending condominium owners.

The town contends that the owners have installed kitchens in order to rent all or half of their units to other parties. While they can legally rent a condominium to one party, they cannot subdivide it for two. Foxhollow has denied responsibility for the second kitchens and has offered to help the town enforce the rules.

Cassin, who purchased his condominium in 1985, said he wants only to retain his kitchen. He said

he would gladly agree not to rent the basement portion of his unit to somebody else.

Lester explained that only four condominiums are allowed in each building by terms of the special permit. He presented a 1986 letter from his predecessor, Edward M. Briggs, warning Foxhollow that a single condominium had been subdivided and rented as two units.

"When you put an extra kitchen in, you've created an extra unit," he said, adding later that, "One of my big arguments is that it was never filed for. So therefore it's illegal."

Briggs, also present for the meeting, conceded that second kitchens are a "gray area" in the special permit. More disturbing, he said, is that some owners apparently have more than the two or three bed-

rooms allowed. Cassin said his own condominium was modified for five bedrooms.

Reapplication possible

At that point, Cassin said, "It occurs to me that there's a bigger issue here between the developer and myself rather than the town and myself." He said he will take up the matter with Foxhollow, but added, "I just don't want to be harmed in the process."

The zoning board members briefly debated whether to take action on Cassin's request. They agreed that the more appropriate course for him would be to consult with either Town Counsel Jerome J. Scully or the Selectmen, the original permit-granting authority.

By withdrawing his request without prejudice, the board said, Cassin could reapply for a variance again, if that is judged to be the proper course. On the other hand, if his request was turned down, he could not approach the board for another two years.

"We can't grant a variance for a kitchen sink," said ZBA member Dolores Loring. "I don't think this belongs here. I think it belongs with town counsel or somebody else, but not us. I just don't see where we fit in."

Eagle Sat. Dec. 3, 1988

Court allows zoning permit for 65-unit Super 8 Motel

By William J. Carey
Berkshire Eagle Staff

LEE — A Superior Court judge has ruled that the Zoning Board of Appeals acted properly when it issued a permit for a Super 8 Motel on Housatonic Street, or Route 20, near the Massachusetts Turnpike.

Barring an appeal by the Selectmen, which is unlikely, the ruling ends more than a year of litigation and appears to have cleared the way for construction of the 65-unit motel. But the opening will be delayed for at least another year because of a state moratorium on curb cuts along Routes 7 and 20.

Northeast Hospitality Group Inc. of Montgomery, N.Y., the developer, first proposed the chain-affiliated Super 8 two summers ago. It will be located on the middle of three lots, each containing houses, between the Burger King restaurant and Sunset Motel. The property is owned by the estate of Adelaide J. LaLiberte.

Since the property lies in a flood plain, Northeast required approval from the Conservation Commission and a special permit from the ZBA before building the motel. It cleared both hurdles. The zoning board approved the special permit unanimously on Oct. 7, 1987.

Selectmen appeal

Two weeks later, the Selectmen appealed that decision, throwing the matter into court. The board alleged that the ZBA exceeded its authority and failed to explain its reasons for granting the permit. After hearing the case last summer, a judge instructed the zoning board to provide a fuller explanation of its decision.

The Selectmen contended all along that they were fighting the developer and not the ZBA. They said they disagreed that the motel satisfied zoning requirements holding that it be "essential or desirable" at the proposed location and that it not impede upon adjacent uses, create undue traffic or tax public utilities.

In a decision rendered last week, Judge John F. Moriarty favored the ZBA, saying it was "amply justified" in its decision.

"The proposed use in this case satisfies all of those [zoning] requirements," he said. ". . . While a motel of the type proposed may not be essential to the public convenience or welfare, it is certainly desirable at the proposed location. It promises to keep travelers who would otherwise pass on to Lenox or Pittsfield in Lee to the benefit of other local businesses, and it will

constitute a substantial and attractive addition to the local tax base without creating an unreasonable demand on municipal services."

He added, "The neighborhood is already committed to traveler-oriented business, and this motel will complement and enhance its present character."

As a result of the judge's ruling, Jack F. Pacak, president of Northeast Hospitality, said his firm has all but one of the permits necessary to open the motel. The last one, a curb-cut permit to build a driveway to the road, is being held up by the state Department of Public Works while a "corridor planning study" of Routes 7 and 20 is conducted. No permits will be issued until the one-year study is completed.

Scott Pickard, a DPW spokesman, said the project exceeds the 50 units established as a threshold for the curb-cut moratorium. He said Northeast was informed of its status in an Oct. 21 letter from DPW Commissioner Jane M. Garvey.

Pacak said he feels Northeast should be exempted because it obtained ZBA approval before the moratorium was imposed. But he said it is more inclined to wait out the ban, which will be lifted next September. In the meantime, construction of the motel building can go forward.

Asked if he is pleased with the ruling, Pacak said, "How could I not be? We've been in court on this 14 months. There were a lot of days we wanted to pull our hair out in frustration."

He said Northeast spent about \$150,000 on litigation, engineering studies, option fees and other expenses. The total cost of the motel with those expenses is expected to be \$1.8 million.

Selectmen Chairman Christopher A. Salinetti noted that his board "won the first decision" when the ZBA was instructed to better explain its reasons. From now on, he said, town boards will be "expected to do what they're supposed to do — thoroughly." All told, he estimated that the town spent a "few hundred dollars" on hiring an attorney to represent the ZBA. He said Town Counsel Jerome J. Scully, who represented the Selectmen, charges only for his expenses.

Salinetti said he disagrees with the judge that a Super 8 is desirable for Housatonic Street, which is home to several homes as well as businesses.

"I would still consider it de-facto residential," he said. "I'd like to see it with a lot of trees . . . a lot of homes. I think there're sufficient businesses there already."

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Eagle, Wed. Dec. 7, 1988

Lee court's needs are specific but Town Hall's fate is unclear

By William J. Carey
Berkshire Eagle Staff

LEE — Town officials were told in no uncertain terms last night what the Southern Berkshire District Court needs if it is to stay in Lee. But the fate of the court's host building, the Civil War Memorial Town Hall, is not so certain.

"What do we want?" asked Judge Robert J. Donelan, first justice of the court. "We want heat and hot water, I suppose, to begin with. We want a facility where the justice system can function and where our staff can work in the conditions that people should work in during the last half of the 20th century."

Donelan was invited to attend a meeting on plans to renovate the 114-year-old Town Hall. Also invited were town meeting representatives, who will vote Dec. 19 on borrowing \$1 million to perform that renovation. Only a handful showed up, and those who did raised troubling questions about the proposal itself and its chances of success.

Memorial Hall is home to the District Court, the Police Department, the town switchboard and other town offices. The building is known to be deteriorating, and the facilities of the court and police are recognized as inadequate. Both the Selectmen and a study committee of public and private individuals have pushed for two years to renovate the building.

Original plan rejected

The renovation initially was the centerpiece of a \$3 million building program that envisioned a new emergency complex on Main Street and renovations to the Airoidi Building on Railroad Street. When voters balked at that proposal, Memorial Hall was singled out as a separate item. On Nov. 8, voters approved the renovation by a margin of 1,207 to 1,026. However, town meeting representatives must approve borrowing the money by a two-thirds majority.

One objective of the renovation has been to improve the facilities of the court. A long-held concern that the court will eventually consolidate in Great Barrington was justified last week when Donelan announced a revised schedule moving the probation and clerk-magistrate's offices to that town. The transfer of the probation office was overturned by Donelan's superior, Judge Samuel E. Zoll, at the urging of state Rep. Christopher J. Hodgkins, D-Lee.

Hodgkins could not attend last night's meeting, but he sent a stinging two-page letter read aloud by

his aide, Robin Wadsworth. In the letter, he criticized Donelan's explanations for recommending the transfer and vowed that neither he nor other Berkshire County lawmakers would support legislation to consolidate the court.

He also accused the judge of "artificially raising the caseloads by having the state police from the Lee barracks bring all their cases to Great Barrington, as well as shifting other police departments to [that] court."

Hodgkins offered his offices to pursue funding, work with Donelan and the state, and "make this building work well for the people it serves."

Donelan recalled that he was sworn in 14 years ago in Lee, adding that, "Memorial Hall has been very much a part of my life." But he reiterated that a shortage of staff and the "superior" facilities of Great Barrington's Dewey School led to his recommendation.

"Let me be very frank," he said. "I have never made any secret of the fact that in my opinion, the

[district court] division ought to sit in one place."

Since the Legislature apparently will not approve that, Donelan made the following assessment of the court's future needs in Lee.

"As long as the court is going to be here in the Memorial Town Hall, then we want a decent facility — it's just as simple as that," he said. "Visiting judges are appalled. One of them absolutely refused to use the bathroom in the basement unless accompanied by a court officer for security reasons. I don't think our needs are great and our needs are not expensive. All I'm talking about is the basics — a decent place to work."

Town officials, meanwhile, are attempting to differentiate the fate of Memorial Hall from that of the court's presence there.

Attorney Henry M. Donahoe, who served on the town's study committee, said last night, "Let's look at Memorial Hall as a building of historical importance to the community." He said the renovation is "not something that's going to hinge

on the presence or absence of the court."

But town meeting representatives were clearly dissatisfied when told that no specific plans have been made to fill out the building with other offices, with or without the court. They also questioned whether the \$1 million price tag is accurate, and whether substantial funds should be spent on the Police Department if a new emergency complex is planned.

"There's going to be an awful lot of questions brought up on the floor, and to get a two-thirds vote, you guys better do some homework before the meeting," advised Edward M. Briggs of Fairview Street.

John E. DeVarenes of St. Mary's Avenue, who also is chairman of the town's Capital Outlay Committee, said he may take the floor and ask: "Hey, what are you guys talking about? You're asking for a million bucks and you don't know what you're going to do with the place?"

DeVarenes said that, "As a taxpayer in the town of Lee, I think the [renovation] is being rushed."



MAIN HALLWAY of the Civil War Memorial Town Hall in Lee is shared by people using the district court, probation office and town clerk's office, creating a sometimes hectic atmosphere. The town is attempting to renovate the 114-year-old building.

Joel Librizzi

Eagle, Dec 20, 1988



Leslie Noyes

EXPLAINING RENOVATION of the Civil War Memorial Town Hall last night was attorney Henry M. Donahoe, who headed a renovation study committee. The \$1 million project

was approved by a near unanimous vote of town meeting representatives.

Lee reps OK Town Hall renovation

By William J. Carey
Berkshire Eagle Staff

LEE — Town meeting representatives, by a near unanimous vote last night, approved borrowing \$1 million for the renovation of the Civil War Memorial Town Hall.

The vote was taken after about 20 minutes of debate in which surprisingly little dissent was voiced to the hefty spending article. Thirty-nine of the town's 60 representatives were present for the meeting at Lee Central School.

The renovation had been approved by the voters in November, but a two-thirds vote of the representatives was needed to actually borrow the funds. Based on a 10-year bond, the project will add 68 cents to the tax rate in the first year and lesser amounts in the remaining years.

The chances of the article passing had been in doubt right up until last night's meeting. Two weeks ago, representatives at an informational meeting criticized the lack of a specific plan to utilize the building and questioned the accuracy of renovation cost estimates. They also questioned whether the basement headquarters of the Police Department should be upgraded when the town is planning a separate emergency complex.

With those concerns in mind, the Memorial Hall Study Committee, which has worked two years for the renovation, developed a plan of apportioning the building among the police station, Southern Berkshire District Court, and town offices. Attorney Henry M. Donahoe, who headed the committee, said last night that another issue raised at the informational meeting — the cost of upgrading two jails cells in the building — could be alleviated by the installation of pre-fabricated cells. Those cells, in

turn, could be moved to the proposed emergency complex at relatively little cost.

In consultation with Architects Inc. of Northampton, the committee has approved a design that will make the building accessible to the disabled by dropping the two front doors of Memorial Hall to ground level. People using the building will enter into a lobby and take an elevator to other floors. It also has filed a pre-application for up to \$75,000 from the Massachusetts Historical Commission for renovations.

The strongest dissent was voiced by Representative James F. Nolan. Of the people in his district, he said, "I have not met anybody who wants to spend \$1 million on that Town Hall."

However, Representative Dennis Mountain, who comes from the same district, said the people he's spoken to want the renovation.

"That kind of killed Jimmy's argument," said Selectman William D. Bean after the meeting.

Bean said the opposition "kind of fell" after the study committee addressed the major concerns with the renovation. He added that the "voters have spoken" on the issue, leaving town meeting representatives will little choice but to approve the project.

In other business, the representatives passed over an article that would have transferred \$10,000 from available funds to the building inspector's salary account. The pass-over vote was taken in order to allow time to further study an earlier town meeting vote in which a cap was placed on the building inspector's salary. The inspector, Robert W. Lester, keeps half of the fees he collects.

Debate leading up to the vote was highlighted

by the ongoing dispute between former Building Inspector Edward M. Briggs and the Selectmen, who fired him. Briggs objected to Lester making money from a new fee system when the workload of the job has not changed. In the past, the price of a building permit was based on construction cost; under Lester it is based on the square footage of a project.

Briggs said contractors will pass the extra cost on to homeowners. He also argued that Department of Public Works Superintendent J. Peter Scolforo and other town officers should be rewarded for their efforts in obtaining grants and filling the town coffers.

"A \$10,000 raise for a part-time worker in this town is ridiculous," Briggs said.

Selectmen Chairman Christopher A. Salinetti said his board has no way of comparing Briggs to Lester because "the records just aren't there —" a reference to Briggs' record-keeping while in office. If people disagree with the new fee system, he said, they should make their feelings known to the Selectmen at a public meeting.

The representatives approved borrowing close to \$200,000 for removing asbestos from Lee schools, and agreed to transfer \$25,500 from available funds to the Police Department salary account for overtime expenses. They agreed to form a town historical commission and to rejoin the Berkshire County Mosquito Control Program. The town will have to appropriate about \$12,000 for that program at the annual town meeting in May.

The representatives turned down a transfer of \$1,200 from available funds for the cost of weed-harvesting at Laurel Lake. The money represents work done by the county for private landowners and billed to the town. The town, in turn, will bill the landowners.

Eagle, Dec. 13, 1988

Lee delegates to vote Monday on renovation of Memorial Hall

LEE — Town representatives will vote on the proposed renovation of Memorial Hall and 14 other articles at a special town meeting Monday at 7:30 p.m. at Lee Central School.

The Selectmen this week expressed optimism that the \$1 million renovation will pass, despite pointed questions raised at a recent meeting. The voters already have approved a ballot question exempting the cost of the project from Proposition 2½, which limits the amount of money a town can raise in taxes. But a two-thirds vote of the town meeting representatives is needed to borrow the funds.

If approved, the project would add less than \$1 to the tax rate, town officials have said.

Selectman William D. Bean yesterday said, "I think it's going to go." He added that the Memorial Hall Study Committee, an ad-hoc group of public and private individuals, is "working real hard" to ensure passage of the article. Other supporters include the Greater Lee Chamber of Commerce and Lee Football Association.

Memorial Hall was built in 1874 as a memorial to Civil War veterans. It houses the Southern Berkshire District Court, which sits part of the week in Great Barrington, the Lee police station, communications center and town clerk's office. The chamber of commerce and state representative Christopher J. Hodgkins, D-Lee, also maintain offices there.

Holes in attic

The building is deteriorating and inaccessible to the handicapped. At an informational meeting last week, Mark T. Dunn of Architects Inc., the Northampton firm hired to study the building, said, "You can go up in the attic and see daylight coming through the mansard."

However, at the same meeting, town meeting representatives shed doubt on the firm's cost estimates and questioned the absence of a plan to fill the building, if and when it is renovated.

According to Selectman Diane P. Roosa, the Memorial Hall Study Committee has firmed up the cost estimates and developed a plan to fill the building. It has also completed a pre-application for up to \$75,000 in state historical funds. Roosa is a member of that committee.

mittee.

Under the committee's plan, Roosa said, the front steps and main entrance of the building would be altered to contain a lobby. From there, visitors would take an elevator to the upper levels. There would also be a staircase on the side of the building.

Roosa said the Police Department and communications center will occupy the entire basement, a plan that has already been announced. The first floor would be shared by the district court facilities, which will be expanded, and the offices of the town clerk, accountant and treasurer. The probation office will be moved from the first floor to expanded quarters on the second floor. And in addition to Hodgkins's second-floor office, three additional

offices will be available for rent, Roosa said.

Among other big-ticket articles, the representatives will be asked to appropriate \$200,000 for removing asbestos from Lee schools, and an estimated \$60,000 for renovations to the Lee Library. Both are eligible for state reimbursements. The library renovations include new windows, replacing the boiler and other energy-related improvements.

The representatives will be asked to transfer \$25,500 from available funds to the Police Department salary account. Bean said the figure represents overtime pay and the cost of sending two cadets, Adrian Kohlenberger and William Bartini, to the police academy. Bartini, the newest hire, was selected from a field of three candidates last week.

Eagle, Wed. Dec. 21, 1988

Return to county mosquito fight voted by Lee town meeting reps

By William J. Carey
Berkshire Eagle Staff

LEE — If funding is approved next spring, this town would become the 11th member of the Berkshire County Mosquito Control Project, which faced extinction in the aftermath of Proposition 2½.

Town meeting representatives on Monday voted to rejoin the project after a seven-year hiatus. The action must still be approved by the state Legislature and again by town meeting representatives, this time for funding, next May.

Withdrew from program

Like most other Berkshire County municipalities, Lee withdrew from the project as a cost-cutting measure after passage of Proposition 2½, which limits the amount a town can raise in taxes. In the years after 1981, when the tax law took effect, all but eight of the county's 32 cities and towns abandoned the project.

The withdrawal spelled near disaster for the project, which assessed member cities and towns for its services. Before Proposition 2½, it employed nine permanent employees and up to 25 seasonal workers. Now, it employs just one full-timer, Superintendent James T. Jurgenson, and six summer workers.

But the project's original membership appears to be creeping back, at least partially. Lanesboro rejoined in 1986 and Pittsfield this past year. The other current members are Sheffield, Great Barrington, Alford,

Stockbridge, Richmond, Becket, Hinsdale and Adams.

In addition to Lee's interest in rejoining, Jurgenson said yesterday that Clarksburg and Washington have also made inquiries.

100% improvement

"It looks like things are starting to improve 100 percent," he said.

Lee's cost of belonging to the project is expected to be \$24,000, with the state pitching in half. However, the action to rejoin is not based solely on dollars and cents.

According to Public Works Superintendent J. Peter Scolforo, last summer's mosquito problem got close to being "out of hand." He said his department does not have expertise in the bug-killing field and is not licensed to use pesticides. He said the project was especially helpful in controlling mosquitoes in the marshy area between East and Greylock streets.

"That's not our expertise at all," Scolforo said yesterday, adding that, "I always thought they did a good job."

One representative at Monday's meeting, Deidre Consolati, questioned whether harmful pesticides are used by the project. Jurgenson said an environmentally safe, biological compound known as BTI is used to kill the mosquito larvae. He said the project digs ditches and performs other drainage work to eliminate the breeding areas.

Eagle, Fri. Dec. 23, 1988

Abutters nervous over housing plan

Lee authority's project would have 16 low-income units

By William J. Carey
Berkshire Eagle Staff

LEE — The Housing Authority's plan to build 16 low-income housing units off Marble Street is causing concern in the neighborhood.

In what one participant described as a "very heated meeting," the Zoning Board of Appeals opened a public hearing on the plan Wednesday. Before any construction takes place, the ZBA must grant a "comprehensive permit" for the project — the first such permit to be sought in Lee.

Though it has been two years in the making, the project is causing concern among abutters of Marble Street, some of whom claim they were not notified when plans were

being developed. Abutters feel it will crowd the quiet neighborhood, increase traffic and expose nearby businesses to accidents.

Against the poor

The local housing board and the Berkshire County Regional Housing Authority, which is acting as a consultant, stoutly defend the project. One member of Lee's board accused the abutters of turning a cold shoulder on the poor people who may or may not be their neighbors.

"If you're poor," said Elizabeth Hodgkins, "you've got two strikes against you."

The \$1.5 million state-funded project calls for eight duplex

apartments with 15 family units and one "barrier-free" unit for the disabled. The new buildings would be located south of Brown Memorial Court, a 48-unit elderly housing complex, on land owned by the authority. A new road would lead to the apartments from Marble Street.

Being a government-funded housing project, it requires a comprehensive permit. The ZBA in this case is the permit-granting board, although other town boards can submit comments. Carol A. Marino, the zoning board's secretary, said this is the first case in Lee in which a comprehensive permit is being sought.

Neighbors in opposition

The public hearing was attended by about 25 people, including abutters, attorneys and architects. The ZBA continued the hearing to Jan. 25 at 7 p.m. at the Airolidi Building.

Rose E. Salice, an abutter who attended that hearing, said yesterday that neighbors were inconvenienced for a long time by the construction of yet another housing authority project, an eight-bedroom duplex for mentally retarded adults named Budd House. She said the elderly tenants of Brown Memorial Court and those of Budd House have blended in well with the neighborhood. But she questioned whether younger families with children should be added to the mix.

"We are getting pretty much everything here on Marble Street and I think they should look into other sites," she said. "This is a small street . . . a quiet neighborhood. I don't know how they're going to handle it. I really don't."

Another abutter, James B. Powers, said the project spells more cars and more pedestrian traffic.

Told of Salice's concerns, he said, "That's a safe assumption of the way we feel. I would agree with that."

Two businesses, Lee Lime Corp. and Lee Marble Inc., are within walking distance of the proposed site. Lee Marble was represented at the hearing by attorney Kermit S. Goodman of Pittsfield. Goodman said his client is concerned, among other things, with the "juxtaposition of housing units" near the company's boundary line. He said the presence of a large derrick and the quarry itself creates a safety problem.

"You have to expect a certain number of families within these units," he said. "What you're doing is you're putting the kids next to the quarry which isn't necessarily the soundest proposal."

Goodman also expressed concern about the possible use of dynamite in the construction. A geological fault line runs through the area, he said, adding, "A good stiff jolt of TNT might have an unwanted effect."

The attorney said he was told that the housing units would be founded on concrete slabs, and that sewer and water pipes would be placed only four feet underground, apparently eliminating the need for blasting.

Of the proximity of Lee Marble, Daniel R. Tuchscherer, executive director of the regional housing authority, said, "We're going to try to make sure [children] can't get through to it easily. These are concerns you have in any neighborhood."

Tuchscherer and Lee Housing Authority Chairman Francis D. Foley Jr. defended the project as meeting a need for low-income public housing in the community. According to the 1979 federal census, Tuchscherer said, Lee had 150 families below the federal poverty line. Typically, that makes them eligible for state-funded housing, he said. And the local housing board, in screening applicants, can show preference for Lee residents — another concern of the abutters, the two said.

Tuchscherer described the proposed development as a "real high quality" project that he is proud to be associated with. He said he believes that younger, low-income families and the elderly are a good mix for the property.

"If it works, and if it's facilitated, they can be a benefit to each other," he said. "If that interdependence develops, it can be a wonderful thing."



William J. Carey

THE VILLAGE at October Mountain, seen here from the main gate off East Street, has been a source of controversy since 1985. The Berkshire County Savings Bank is completing the village to the town's satisfaction, but condominium owners still have concerns.

Bank gets go-ahead to sell October Mountain condos

By William J. Carey
Berkshire Eagle Staff

LEE — Eight months and up to \$1 million later, the Berkshire County Savings Bank is nearing completion of remedial work at The Village at October Mountain and has obtained the green light to sell 16 condominiums once deemed illegal.

But while the bank and the town appear to be winding down their relationship on a good note, the bank and October Mountain condominium owners are still negotiating over unfinished work items. And

a representative of the bank said last night that any "fight" the owners have is with the original developers of the village.

"It is not now, nor will it be the intent of the bank to own that property and settle the demands of the condo owners," said Michael P. Daly, senior commercial loan officer.

The 104-unit condominium village off East Street has been a source of controversy since construction began in 1985. The Selectmen had on two occasions withheld occupancy permits for finished condominiums, alleging that developers Philip M. Manger and Robert H. Garrity failed to comply with conditions of their special permit from the town. The developers were unable to sell condominiums without occupancy permits.

The bank, which financed the construction, announced last May that it was taking control of the village. It proposed to complete and sell 16 condominiums built with expired permits, to remedy a faulty retention pond and perform other work. It was granted an amended special permit in August.

Sources familiar with the project estimate that the bank has spent up to \$1 million in paying construction and engineering costs, settling zoning disputes and paying off creditors of Manger and Garrity. Daly declined to specify the cost, saying only that it is "certainly substantial."

The Selectmen agreed last week to release their hold on occupancy permits. As a result, Building Inspector Robert W. Lester may issue such permits for the 16 condominiums as they are finished. Lester

said last night that he has not been asked to inspect any of the units, which are still under construction.

The board also plans to release a \$250,000 letter of credit posted by the bank to ensure completion of the major remedial work. But Selectman William D. Bean said the town is asking for another letter of credit, this time for \$45,000, to ensure among other things that topographical maps are delivered and that missing basement insulation is placed in 80 completed units. He said the town will return to the bank a \$30,000 bond posted by Manger and Garrity.

"We're very pleased with the end results," Bean said of the work in general. "It's a real good project compared to what it was" before the bank took over.

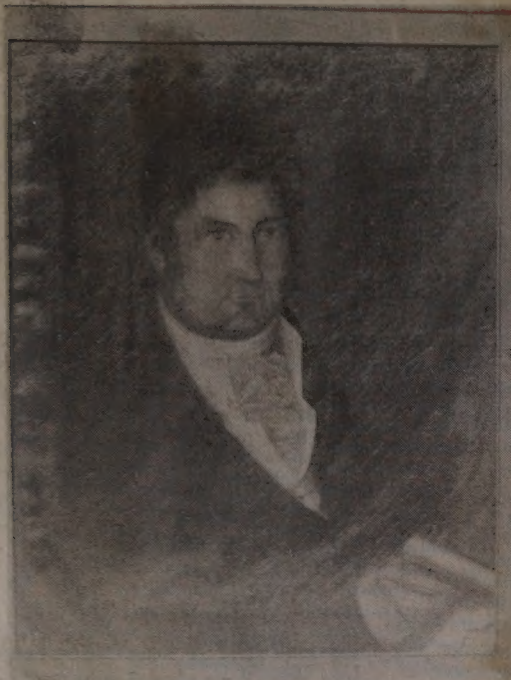
Daly said, "It was a long process, but I think everyone benefited from the bank's involvement."

David M. Zanotta, chairman of the October Mountain Condo Owners Association, said residents of the village are "very grateful" that the bank fixed the retention pond, corrected building-code violations and did other needed work. But he said they are still negotiating with the bank to have landscaping, flooding and other problems rectified.

"We feel it's the developer's responsibility, whoever the developer is," he said last night.

However, Daly said the bank acted as a "mortgagee in possession" to end disputes and complete the village to the town's satisfaction. He said residents would have to pursue their individual complaints with Manger and Garrity, the original developers.

Eagle - Fri. Dec. 30, 1988



MATCHING PORTRAITS of James and Mary Pumpelly, a prominent 19th century couple in Owego, N.Y., were traced to the Caropreso Gallery in Lee by Owego museum officials and purchased at auction. They now hang in the Tioga County Historical Society Museum.

Portraits auctioned in Lee taken home to Owego in central N.Y.

By William J. Carey
Berkshire Eagle Staff

LEE — The village of Owego, N.Y., has recovered a piece of its heritage from the estate of a Lee woman.

Earlier this year, after learning that matching portraits of James and Mary Pumpelly were to be auctioned off at the Caropreso Gallery, two residents of Owego made a pilgrimage to Lee in hopes of claiming the paintings.

By all accounts, the 19th century paintings are anything but artistic masterpieces. But to Owego, a village of about 4,800 west of Binghamton, they mean something.

In yet another manifestation of the rags-to-riches theme, James Pumpelly by one account came to Owego "nearly penniless" in 1802 and died there a rich and important man close to a half century later. A surveyor by trade, he is believed to be Owego's first mayor.

Bank president

He also served as president of the old Bank of Owego, helped to establish the Ithaca & Owego Railroad, and was instrumental in launching the first commercial steamboat on

the Susquehanna River.

Pumpelly's wife, Mary, was born in Stockbridge. Her father was Col. David Pixley, who is said to have bequeathed to her a large sum of money. Her first husband was Dr. Samuel Tinkham. When she married the aspiring Owego surveyor in 1805, she became Mary Pixley Tinkham Pumpelly.

Louis E. Caropreso, owner of the local auction gallery, said the portraits came from the estate of a Lee woman whom he declined to identify. The artist is unknown. What is known is that James Pumpelly had his portrait done by the artists Waldo and Jewitt in 1834. But the estate's portraits most probably came from different hands.

"They were nice primitive portraits, but not done by any of the great artists of the time," Caropreso said.

The journey to recover those paintings was recounted earlier this month in the Binghamton Press & Sun-Bulletin, which dubbed it "The Long Road Home." According to the newspaper, a man named Richard Barons happened upon a notice of the auction while flipping through old mail. A fervent antiquarian,

Barons contacted Jean Neff, director of the Tioga County Historical Society Museum in Owego.

With just two days until the Aug. 27 auction, and with no possibility of raising money in a pinch, Neff called John D. Spencer, a past president of the society and owner of the Riverow Bookshop. Ever the good citizen, Spencer arranged a line of credit at his bank and hit the road with Neff.

He told the paper that he was willing to bid up to \$10,000 of his own money to win the coveted portraits. Assuming he did that, his plan was to offer them to the historical society at the same price he paid, giving his colleagues a month to make up their minds. If the society was unable to raise the money, he had another buyer, albeit a non-resident of Owego, who was interested.

As it turns out, Spencer did win the portraits, and at a substantially lower cost than he anticipated. After encountering early pressure from one other man, he capped the bidding at \$5,000. With Caropreso's fee tacked on, the package came to \$5,500.

The historical society subsequently borrowed from its trust fund to reimburse Spencer. It is now in the process of raising money in the community to replenish the fund. The portraits are hanging next to a restored doorway of the Pumpellys' house that has been incorporated into the museum.

Contacted by telephone, Spencer gave an unequivocal "yes" when asked if he would do the same thing again, given the circumstances. "I decided I wanted to do it," he said, adding, "I would have been bailed out eventually."

Lending his own moral to the story, Caropreso said, "The people who should of had them, got them."

